# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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# SC questions Madras HC over Karur stampede probe

The Karur stampede, which occurred on September 27 during a TVK rally, claimed 41 lives and injured over 60.

**Key Takeaways**

- The bench refused to modify its earlier order, insisting CBI probe continues with Supervisory Committee members being non-natives of Tamil Nadu.
- The court made the Madras HC Registrar General a party and emphasised a fair, impartial investigation to restore public trust.
- TN government sought recall of the CBI order and continuation of SIT probe, claiming no mala-fide or bias in the state police investigation.

**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed serious concerns over the Madras High Court's handling of the Karur stampede case, stating, "Something wrong is happening in the High Court." The bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi reviewed a report from the Registrar General of the Madras High Court, questioning the procedures followed in listing and hearing petitions related to the case.

The court rejected the Tamil Nadu government's plea to modify its earlier October 13 order suspending a one-man inquiry commission and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, insisting that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) continue its independent probe. Justice Maheshwari emphasised, "We want everything to be fair and impartial," while refusing to change the directive that Supervisory Committee members monitoring the CBI investigation should not be natives of Tamil Nadu.

During proceedings, senior advocates P. Wilson and Siddharth Luthra sought copies of the HC report to file a reply. The top court noted that prior media statements by police officers could undermine public trust in the investigation and reiterated that citizens' rights demand an impartial, independent inquiry. The Supreme Court's orders aim to restore faith in the criminal justice process and ensure a fair, transparent investigation into the tragic incident.

# Pending Gruhalakshmi Scheme funds will be released soon: CM

Amid Assembly uproar over pending Gruhalakshmi scheme installments and allegations of misinformation by Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar, CM Siddaramaiah assured immediate release of funds

**BELAGAVI**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured the Karnataka Assembly on Friday that the government will take immediate steps to release the pending installments of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. Responding to an issue raised by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka, he clarified that while payments had been made up to August, the dues for February and March would be verified and released without delay. He noted that an incorrect statement made earlier by Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar in the House did not mean there was a breach of privilege, and the matter would be rectified.

The controversy arose after Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar told the Assembly that Gruhalakshmi scheme payments were cleared till August, implying February and March installments were included. However, opposition leader R. Ashoka presented official documents showing these two installments were never released, accusing the minister of giving false information and undermining the House's dignity.

Siddaramaiah countered Ashoka's allegation that the opposition existed only "to expose lies," stating that the government had no reason to lie and that any inaccuracies would always be corrected once noticed.

During the discussion, Ashoka also urged Congress leaders to suspend their political dinner meetings until the Legislature Session concluded. He criticised ministers for attending late-night political gatherings and arriving in the Assembly without proper preparation, leading to inaccurate responses and misinformation being presented in the House.

Supporting Ashoka, BJP MLA Sunil Kumar argued that the core issue was not just the delay in Gruha Lakshmi payments, but that the House had allegedly been misled, raising concerns of breach of privilege. In response, Congress MLA Shivalingegowda accused BJP members of opposing guarantee schemes while simultaneously questioning delays in payments.

Concluding the debate, Siddaramaiah reiterated that during his tenure as Leader of the Opposition, he had always spoken based on facts and would continue to ensure transparency and accountability while addressing concerns related to welfare schemes.

## Mahadevappa denies misuse of SCSP, TSP funds

**Belagavi:** Social Welfare Minister Dr. H. C. Mahadevappa clarified in the Legislative Council that SCSP and TSP funds have not been misused. Over the past 2.5 years, the government has spent ₹25,909 crore from SCSP funds and ₹11,273 crore from TSP allocations. He informed the council that these funds were utilised for various guarantee schemes, responding to a query raised by BJP member Hemalatha Nayak.

OPPOSITION

## BJP calls Siddaramaiah govt 'Karnataka's most unpopular'

**Belagavi:** The BJP in Karnataka launched a strong offensive against the Siddaramaiah government, calling it the most unpopular administration in the state. Opposition leader R. Ashoka claimed, "Compared to the Siddaramaiah of 2013, the 2025 Siddaramaiah is the worst. This is the worst term in Karnataka's history — completely unpopular."

## BJP leader CT Ravi accuses Congress of 'vote chori'

**Belagavi:** BJP leader CT Ravi on Friday criticized the Congress, alleging a history of "vote theft" and holding the party responsible for North Karnataka's underdevelopment. Ravi further accused the Congress of neglecting the region, claiming that the lack of development in North Karnataka is a direct consequence of the party's misgovernance.

# IPL matches allowed to protect B'luru's image, says DKS

**BENGALURU**
**BELAGAVI**

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday said that the state government has permitted cricket matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to safeguard Bengaluru's reputation. The decision comes after a Cabinet review, which clarified that matches for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season will only be allowed once the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) implements all safety and security measures. All events at the stadium had been suspended since June 4 following a stampede during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's victory celebrations that tragically claimed 11 lives. The Cabinet has placed the responsibility on KSCA authorities to comply with the recommendations of the Justice John Michael D'Cunha Commission, set up to investigate the incident. The Commission had found the stadium's "design and structure" unsuitable for large gatherings, citing systematic limitations and strongly advising that high-attendance events be shifted to safer venues. Shivakumar emphasized that the Home Minister, G Parameshwara, would engage with KSCA officials to ensure full adherence to the Commission's guidelines.

# Naidu rules out annual fare cap amid IndiGo-led price spike

**NEW DELHI**

Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu informed the Lok Sabha on Friday that it is not practical for the government to cap airfares throughout the year, emphasizing that a deregulated aviation market ultimately benefits passengers. He noted that ticket prices naturally rise during peak demand periods, such as festive seasons, and these seasonal fluctuations are a normal outcome of supply and demand.

The minister highlighted that the deregulation of the sector was intended to encourage growth, attract more players, and foster competition, allowing market dynamics to determine pricing. Responding to a private member's bill seeking airfare regulation amid the recent IndiGo crisis, Naidu reiterated that deregulation remains crucial for the civil aviation sector's expansion, though the government retains the authority to intervene in extraordinary circumstances. Under the Aircraft Act, the Centre can cap fares when necessary to prevent opportunistic pricing, as seen during events like the Covid-19 crisis, the Maha Kumbh, the Pahalgam terror attack, and the recent IndiGo disruptions. Initiatives such as the 'Fare Se Fursat' scheme, covering 25 routes in the Northeast and South India, illustrate the government's targeted intervention approach.

Naidu also pointed out that, when adjusted for inflation, airfares in India have decreased by 43% over the years, making travel more affordable compared to countries like the US and China. Additionally, the government has issued a tariff sheet mandating airlines to display upper and lower fare limits.

> **Airfares usually rise during the festive season because of increased demand on specific routes and at particular times. These fluctuations are seasonal.**
>
> —Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Aviation Minister

# External expert to conduct flight disruption probe

**NEW DELHI**

IndiGo announced on Friday that its Board has approved the engagement of Chief Aviation Advisors LLC, led by veteran aviation expert Captain John Illson, to carry out an independent review and assessment of the airline's recent operational disruptions and the factors that contributed to them. Captain Illson, who has over 40 years of experience spanning the FAA, ICAO, IATA, and major international carriers, brings extensive expertise in aviation strategy, safety management, global standards, consulting, and new aircraft technologies.

The review aims to perform a root cause analysis of the operational challenges IndiGo recently faced and to identify potential areas for improvement. This move comes following recommendations from the airline's Crisis Management Group (CMG), which advised commissioning an external expert assessment to thoroughly examine the situation.

# Cabinet approves bill to establish single higher education regulator

**NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to create a single higher education regulator, replacing existing bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The legislation, initially called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill, has been renamed the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill. This initiative aligns with the vision outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which recommends consolidating multiple regulatory bodies to streamline governance and strengthen higher education in India.

The proposed regulator will serve as the primary authority for non-medical and non-law higher education institutions, handling regulation, accreditation, and professional standard-setting. Medical and law colleges will remain outside its ambit. While the regulator will manage these three core functions, funding will continue to be under the control of the administrative ministry, ensuring autonomy in financial matters.

The idea of HECI was first introduced through a draft bill in 2018, which aimed to repeal the UGC Act and consolidate regulatory functions. Renewed efforts to implement the concept were undertaken under Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in 2021. The NEP-2020 emphasizes that India's higher education system requires a complete overhaul, with distinct, empowered bodies responsible for regulation, accreditation, funding, and academic standard-setting. The creation of a single regulator is expected to simplify governance, improve accountability, and enhance the overall quality and competitiveness of higher education institutions across the country.

## QUICK READ

### Govt to establish Defence Corridor in North K'taka

**BELAGAVI**

Karnataka's government is pushing to establish a defence corridor in North Karnataka, covering Belagavi, Vijayapura, and Dharwad, said M.B. Patil, Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development. The state contributes 65% to India's aerospace and defence sector and is a leader in aerospace. Patil noted that the Chief Minister and state officials met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, receiving positive feedback, with all-party support for the project. Belagavi already hosts a successful aerospace SEZ, while Dharwad is developing a 3,000-acre industrial zone under the Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

### Red Fort blast: Court sends 3 doctors to 12 days JC

**NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court on Friday remanded three doctors and a preacher arrested in connection with the November 10 Red Fort blast to 12 days of judicial custody. The accused—Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheena Saeed, and Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay—were produced before the Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna, along with Dr Bilal Naseer Malla, whose voice sample was being authenticated. The case, linked to a sophisticated 'white-collar' terror module busted by Jammu and Kashmir Police, has seen eight arrests so far by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

DIGITAL CENSUS 2027

# *Cabinet approves ₹11,718-cr budget for digital census 2027*

**NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday approved an ₹11,718-crore budget for the National Census 2027, marking India's first fully digital census. Described as the world's largest statistical exercise, Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw explained that the first phase, the House Listing and Housing Census, will run from April to September 2026, while the second phase, Population Enumeration, is scheduled for February 2027. The Population Census in Ladakh, snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, and the hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand will be conducted in September 2026.

Approximately 30 lakh field personnel will be deployed, generating over 1.5 crore human-day employments. As India's first digital census, it will enable efficient, user-friendly data dissemination. Census-as-a-Service (CaaS) will provide ministries with clean, machine-readable, actionable data. A dedicated Census Management and Monitoring System portal will ensure real-time monitoring of the process, and a secure self-enumeration option will be available to the public.

The Cabinet had earlier approved including caste enumeration in Census 2027. This data will be captured electronically during the Population Enumeration phase.

## Indian Census 2011 – Key Statistics

**Total Population:** 1,210,854,977

**Males:** 623,724,248

**Females:** 586,469,174

**Literacy Rate: 74.04%**

**Sex Ratio:**

➲ **Overall:** 940 females per 1,000 males

➲ **Child Sex Ratio (0–6 years):** 914 females per 1,000 males

QUICK READ

### Poor Greater Bengaluru Authority's work exposed again

**BENGALURU**

The poor work done by the officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority has once again been exposed. It has come to light that the road has been paved with asphalt leaving the parking lot of vehicles on the road. The old cars were not removed. Residens have been outraged by the move of the GBA officials who have asphalted the entire road and left the car-sized space unoccupied. There has been criticism of the GBA on social media.

### Leather industry boost: LIDCOM signs agreement with LIDKAR

**BENGALURU**

Italian company Prada, LIDCOM (Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Tannery Development Corporation) and LIDKAR (Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation) have entered into an agreement to promote Indian leather industry and the heritage of Kolhapuri chappals. The agreement was signed at the Italy-India Business Forum. As per the agreement, Prada will conduct local training. The LIDCOM and LIDKAR collection will be launched globally in February 2026 in 40 selected Prada stores and on Prada's e-commerce platforms.

### Students visit Greater Bengaluru Authority office

**BENGALURU**

Students of Deccan International School visited the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) office and received information about the city's administration and environmental management. As part of an educational tour in collaboration with the Reap Benefit Team, 40 students visited GBA along with teachers Chaitra Kashyap and N Asha. The students visited the GBA control room, helpline, and war rooms and learned about the process of receiving and resolving complaints from the public. They received information from Ramachandran, Special Commissioner, Forest, Environment, and Disaster Management, about the important work of the Environment Department staff and the initiatives they undertake in the city.

# Rowdy sheeters can't be verbally summoned, detained without any reason: High Court

The HC has said that until the rules are formulated, rowdy sheeters cannot be summoned verbally on suspicion, even if they are not involved in criminal acts, just because their names are on the list

**BENGALURU**

The High Court has held that verbally summoning rowdy sheeters to the police station and detaining them for a long time would violate an individual's personal freedom, and said that the government cannot justify such developments.

A bench headed by Justice R Nataraj passed this order while hearing a petition filed by rowdy sheeter Silent Sunil seeking an appropriate order from the Home Department regarding the verbal summoning of rowdies to the police stations. It also directed that appropriate rules should be framed in this regard. In addition, until the rules are framed, rowdy sheeters cannot be summoned verbally on suspicion even if their names are on the list of names and they are not involved in criminal acts.

Instead of verbal summons, they can be summoned by sending an SMS or WhatsApp message.

The bench said that the petitioners should provide their mobile numbers to the Subrahmanya Nagar, Yelahanka Sub-district, Rajajinagar and Amruthahalli police stations where cases have been registered against them. Also, if the investigating officers do not appear at the station even after sending a mobile message, they can visit their homes for questioning. The bench said that if the alleged rowdy sheeter is involved in a criminal act, this order will be automatically cancelled.

When Alok Kumar was the Additional Commissioner, Silent Sunil was called to the police station and warned. Those scenes went viral on social media.

Therefore, Silent Sunil approached the High Court seeking appropriate directions.

Out of the 24 cases registered against him in various police stations, all the cases have ended in acquittal and those cases have been quashed by the court. Except for rowdy sheeter, there are no pending cases against him. However, under the pretext of keeping an eye on him, he is being arrested without any reason and summoned and verbally abused.

There is no procedure in the Karnataka Police Manual or the Indian Penal Code 2023 that prescribes the manner in which a person whose name is on the rowdy list is summoned.

However, the petitioner had approached the court alleging that the respondents were summoning him orally.

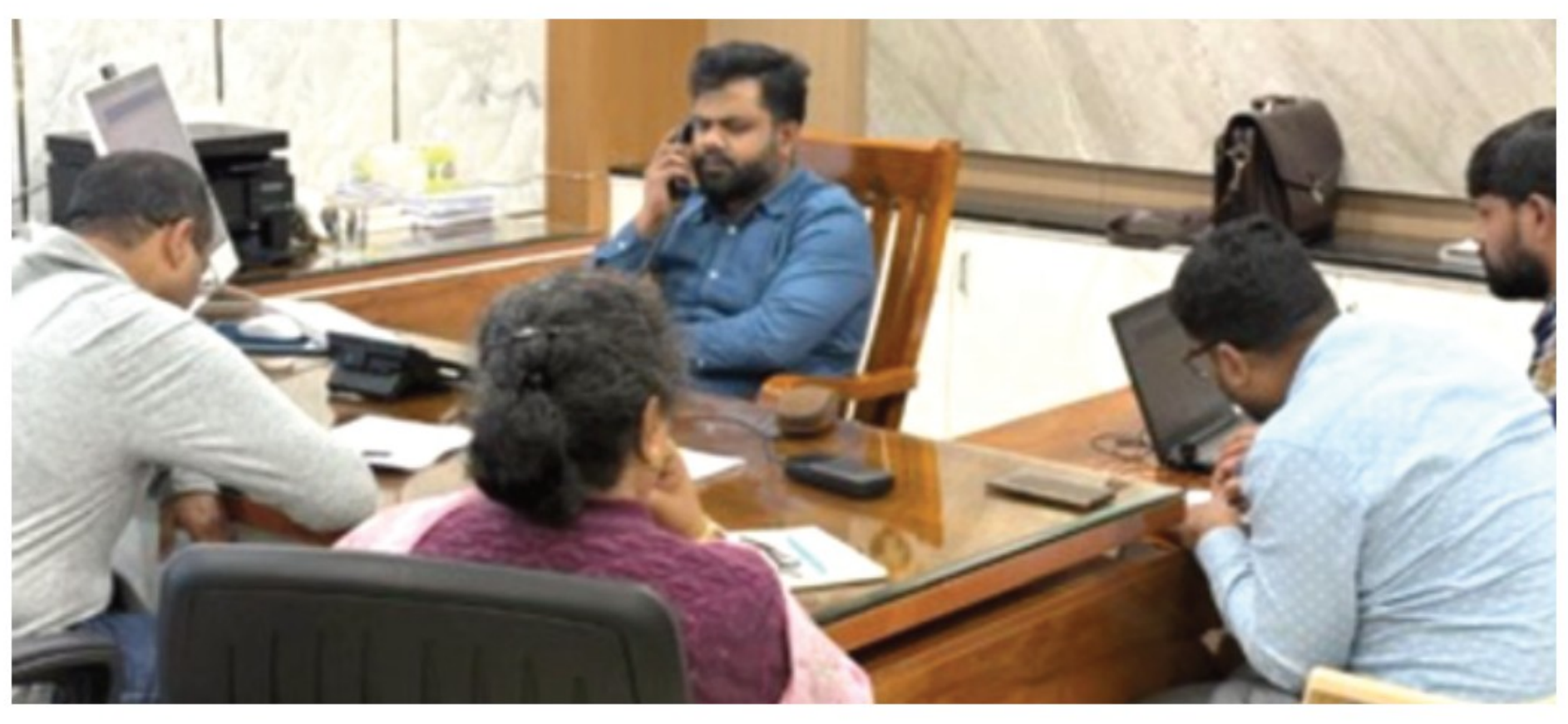
## Businessman fired at with an air gun

**BENGALURU**

An unidentified assailant fired an air gun at a businessman in the city. A case has been registered at Basavanagudi police station in this regard. Businessman Rajagopal has filed a complaint with Basavanagudi police station alleging that a shooting took place near Krishnarao Park in Basavanagudi. Police said they are searching for the air gun shooter. Rajagopal is a dancer from Basavanagudi and the owner of Kargil Bar and Restaurant. He was injured in the neck due to an unexpected attack and has been admitted to a private hospital in Jayanagar for treatment. As soon as the information about the incident was received, Basavanagudi police rushed to the spot and recorded Rajagopal's statement.

## Action on Public Grievances: Phone-In Programme by the Commissioner

**BENGALURU**



The Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, conducted a Phone-In Programme on Friday at 7 AM from the Byatarayanapura Control Room located on Amruthahalli Main Road. During the session, he listened to the grievances of citizens and provided direct responses.

The Commissioner launched the Phone-In Programme on September 26. Over the past 11 weeks, a total of 608 complaints have been received. All complaints were forwarded to the respective officials. Actions have already been taken on 428 complaints.

As 28 complaints did not fall under the jurisdiction of the North City Corporation, they were forwarded to the concerned departments. Directions have been issued to officials to take immediate action on the remaining 130 pending complaints.

In Friday's programme, 29 complaints related to road conditions were received. The Commissioner informed that the work of filling potholes, both day and night, is already in progress across the Corporation limits. He instructed officials to accelerate pothole repair and road restoration work with priority, ensuring quality, and to place greater emphasis on systematic road maintenance for smooth traffic movement.

> To directly hear citizens' grievances and concerns, provide prompt resolutions, and continuously monitor developmental works, the Commissioner's Phone-In Programme will continue every Friday.

With 7 complaints received today regarding solid waste collection and disposal, the Commissioner instructed officials to ensure timely collection and disposal of waste in all wards. A total of 7 complaints were also received regarding hazardous trees and branches. The forest officials present on site were directed to take immediate precautionary action and clear such risks without delay.

During today's Phone-In Programme, 47 calls were received, resulting in 63 complaints being officially registered. Each complaint is being reviewed, and necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned officials for appropriate action.

## Caretaker Exploits Job, Steals Gold Worth ₹31 Lakh

**BENGALURU**

A caretaker, who was appointed to serve the elderly, took advantage of her work at their home to steal gold ornaments worth around Rs 31 lakh from an apartment in Kammanahalli under Banaswadi police station limits. The accused in this theft, Chandini, hails from Bihar and has been working as a caretaker for an elderly woman in this apartment for the past two years. Chandini was hired through an agency as the elderly woman's children were abroad for work. Chandini, who was taking care of the elderly woman with trust, has earned everyone's trust with her actions. Her children often sent relatives to her house to look after the old woman. When these relatives came to see the old woman, they would leave their valuable jewellery at home. Caretaker Chandini realized this and gradually stole jewellery worth Rs 31 lakh from her bags and wardrobes while the relatives were away. Although the jewellery kept disappearing, the family members did not initially suspect anything. However, when the jewellery kept going missing, the family members became suspicious and eventually suspected caretaker Chandini. A complaint has been filed at Banaswadi police station regarding the theft. The Banaswadi police, who sprang into action immediately after the complaint was filed, took caretaker Chandini into custody and interrogated her. During interrogation, she confessed to the theft. The stolen gold ornaments were recovered from the arrested accused Chandini. It is common for caretakers to be hired to take care of the elderly at the insistence of their children abroad.

## Man killed for scolding mother

**BENGALURU**

In a society where relationships are losing value, a blood-related murder has taken place in Yarab Nagar, Banashankari. A minor fight over a scolding of a mother has ended in a gruesome murder between brothers.The tragedy occurred at around 5 am on Friday in Yarab Nagar, Banashankari. The deceased, Mohammad Mujahid (35), was murdered by his own brother, Mohammad Hussain.The brothers worked as clerics in a madrasa in Yarab Nagar. According to sources, the reason for the fight was that Mujahid had scolded his mother. Hussain was deeply angered by his brother's behaviour, which led to a fight between the two. This fight ended in murder. The two brothers, who were sleeping in the madrasa last night, had a fight in the early hours of the morning. The fight escalated and they attacked each other with knives. After the fight, the brothers came out of the house and clashed again on the street.Mujahid died on the spot due to heavy bleeding. His brother Hussain, who was attacked, is undergoing treatment in the hospital. A case has been registered in this regard at the Banashankari police station and the police are continuing the investigation.

## ₹307 cr approved for devpt of Hi-Tech Outer Ring Road

**BENGALURU**

The Cabinet has approved the development of the Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction in Bengaluru to KR Pura Metro Station at an estimated cost of Rs. 307 crore. The project will be implemented by Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSIL). It has been decided to design it in a global manner. With the aim of providing comfortable quality travel and reducing excessive traffic congestion on this road, it is proposed to develop this 17.01 km long road in a high-end manner. This will be a ten-lane road (total 10 lanes), with three-lane main roads and service roads on both sides. There is also a plan to re-establish the bus priority lane, which will drastically reduce traffic congestion. Not only this, there will also be pedestrian and cycle paths on both sides of the road. It is also planned to reconstruct some parts of the road, and high-tech bus stops will be built. It will have a complete information board. A skywalk will also be constructed under the elevated metro line from Ibbalur to KR Pura in partnership with the government and the private sector. Similarly, the Cabinet has approved the relocation of the state's data center operations by acquiring space for 100 racks from the Software Technology of India (STPI) in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs 131.10 crore.

## Towing to start in B'luru soon

**BENGALURU**

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is gearing up to resume towing in the city. One towing vehicle has already been purchased and the other four corporations will arrive soon. In Bengaluru, there is a lot of traffic congestion and parking problems. Vehicles have been parked on the roadside for months. Now the GBA has planned to do towing in collaboration with the traffic police. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said that the vehicles parked on the roadsides, on the footpaths in front of the houses will not only be towed and fined as per the Motor Vehicles Act, but also the use of footpath space by the GBA. Five corporations will come under the purview of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. The GBA is preparing to start towing within a month after procuring towing vehicles for each corporation. Parking of vehicles everywhere was a problem for traffic.

## Drug mafia network on trains, transportation continues

**BENGALURU**

While drugs worth crores of rupees are being brought to the state from abroad through flights, the shocking fact has come to light that the railway route is being used as a route for infiltrating ganja and other narcotics from foreign states into Karnataka.

Railway police records from the last three years have provided additional statistics to support this concern. Tons of ganja and other drugs have been transported to the state by trains from Assam, Tripura, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, neighboring Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Police investigations have revealed that an international drug trafficking network is transporting drugs to the state through flights from other countries including Thailand, Nigeria, Malaysia and Pakistan. Similarly, the inter-state drug mafia is relying on trains as a transportation route.

DANGEROUS HIGHWAYS

## *Night Highway Driving: Govt Data Reveals Alarming Risk*

**BENGALURU**

Night travel on the highway is very safe as per many people. They think that if you leave heavy vehicles, you can easily reach your destination without any traffic hassle. However, government figures have revealed the explosive fact that night travel in the state is dangerous.

Although the cases of extortion and robbery on the National Highway and State Highway in the state are decreasing year by year, the number alone is worrying. In the last 3 years, 403 cases of robbery and extortion have been reported. Controlling highway robbery cases is a big challenge for the police. There are check posts on the national and state highways that go to the police station boundaries. Action has been taken to check suspicious persons and vehicles.

Government two-wheelers have been allocated to each police station for night patrol duty. The vehicles have been instructed to patrol at night with sirens and red lights on. In addition, 112 patrols have been deployed in three shifts 24 hours a day.

MOB cards have been issued to those accused of robbery, extortion and other property crimes in the past. They are being checked unexpectedly and their activities are being monitored. Border crime meetings are being held to prevent crimes.

Information about persons involved in robbery cases is being shared with neighboring states/districts/police stations. CCTVs installed at toll booths on national and state highways are being checked from time to time. Personnel on night beat duty have been advised to carry weapons and ammunition.

**QUICK READ**

### Minister Dr. H.K. Patil to tour Gadag district

**Gadag**

Dr. H.K. Patil, State Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism, will tour Gadag district on December 13 (today). His day begins at 10:00 AM at Mahatma Gandhi Gram Panchayat Raj University in Nagavi, where he will attend the 18th National Conference of the All India Panchayat Parishad. He will then travel by road to Lakshmeshwar, arriving at 12:00 PM to join a science extension program at Chandan School and the "Chandana Shree" 2025 award ceremony. From Lakshmeshwar, he will proceed to Hubballi at 3:00 PM to continue his official engagements.

### Ayurveda student death sparks murder claims

**Mundargi**

A 21-year-old final-year BAMS student, Eshwar Gadag from Dhannur village in Bidar district, was found hanging in his hostel at SBS Ayurvedic Medical College here. His grieving family strongly alleges murder, rejecting it as suicide. They point to removed toenails, deep cuts and blood marks on the body as proof of foul play. Six months ago, Eshwar had tried consuming sleeping pills after alleged harassment by a lecturer. A note saying "No one is responsible for my death, I am to blame, sorry mommy and daddy" was found, but relatives insist it is not his handwriting and was fabricated by college staff. Police moved the body to hospital without informing kin, drawing sharp criticism. The bright student, who passed all exams with distinction, leaves his parents heartbroken amid demands for justice.

# Criminal action planned against Bagar Land irregularities

A probe team reviews forged certificate signatures, naming officials since 2018, with criminal and disciplinary action expected soon

**BELAGAVI**

Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced that a criminal case will be registered against officials involved in illegal allocation of Bagar Hukum land and other land mafia activities. The minister made the statement during the zero-hour discussion in the Legislative Council on Friday, responding to a question from MLA Ramesh Babu.

Minister Gowda said the practice of giving government land to land grabbers is unacceptable. "It is regrettable that some officials have been part of these illegal actions," he said. The case involves about 98 people in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk who were issued cultivation certificates in the names of farmers without proper verification. An FIR has already been filed against those land grabbers who obtained these fake certificates.

Following the discovery of the irregularities, an investigation team was formed on November 13 and sent to Chikkanayakanahalli to examine the issue. The team is verifying which signatures on the fake certificates are genuine and which are forged. Officials in charge of the archive from 2018 to the present have also been named in the FIR. Gowda said that once the investigation is complete, criminal cases will be filed against the officials involved, and disciplinary action will be taken.

During the session, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also addressed the filling of vacant government posts. He said that out of 2,84,881 vacant positions across various departments, 96,844 have already been filled. The remaining 1,88,037 posts, including 1,01,420 in corporation boards and 14,677 in universities, will be filled in phases with the Finance Department's approval. Delays in recruitment due to internal reservation issues have now been resolved, allowing further action on the remaining vacancies.

The minister emphasized that the government is treating the issue of land irregularities seriously and will ensure strict action against both land grabbers and officials involved. The steps aim to protect farmers' rights and prevent misuse of government land in Karnataka.

## Iqbal Hussain backs DKS for CM post

**BELAGAVI**

Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain has once again reiterated his strong support for DK Shivakumar to become Chief Minister, expressing confidence that the party's efforts will yield results after the ongoing legislative session.

His remarks followed a dinner meeting hosted by DKSH on Thursday night, attended by several ministers and around 50–60 MLAs, where many openly backed his leadership bid.

Hussain said numbers were irrelevant and that the high command's decision would be final, adding that all 224 Congress MLAs would attend if DKSH invited them.

Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, who also joined the dinner, described it as an informal gathering and dismissed claims of a number game, stressing that only the high command would decide on the leadership issue. BJP MLA ST Somashekar, currently aligned with Congress, also supported DKSH, citing his contributions and years of service. The developments have intensified speculation within the party, though senior members maintain that the central leadership will ultimately choose the next Chief Minister.

*Protesters tore the Chief Minister effigy, prompting police intervention before officials negotiated and the rally ended peacefully finally*

## Massive protest in Dharwad over govt's cow slaughter law

**DHARWAD**

Tensions flared in Dharwad as pro-Hindu groups staged a massive protest against the state Congress government's proposed amendments to the cow slaughter ban law. The demonstration, led by organizations including Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, and BJP supporters, drew large crowds expressing anger over the government's move.

The protesters alleged that the amendments would allow freedom to cow slaughterers, potentially harming religious sentiments. They warned of serious consequences if the law were changed. Many raised slogans against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state minister Siddramulla Khan during the protest.

The rally began at Jyubili Circle, where participants formed a human chain stretching to Anjuman Circle before returning. Protesters drew the CM's portrait on the ground and symbolically fed cows rice and jaggery. Several Swamijis joined the demonstration, lending religious support to the protest.

Tensions rose when protesters tore an effigy of the Chief Minister, prompting the police to intervene. A verbal altercation ensued between law enforcement and the demonstrators before the situation was calmed. A staff member from the District Magistrate's office engaged with the protesters, after which the rally was called off peacefully.

The Jyubili Circle remained closed temporarily due to the protest, causing heavy traffic in the area. Organizers emphasized that their demonstration was peaceful but warned the government to reconsider any amendments that might affect religious and cultural sentiments.

The protest highlights ongoing debates over cow protection laws in Karnataka and reflects the deep sensitivity surrounding the issue among various communities in the state. Authorities are expected to monitor the situation closely as the government's amendment proposal progresses.

# Yatnal Challenges Misleading Claims about Sugarcane

**BELAGAVI**

MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has strongly criticized claims that sugarcane farmers earn huge profits per ton, saying such statements mislead hardworking farmers in North Karnataka. Speaking in the assembly, Yatnal challenged anyone to prove that a ton of sugarcane brings in Rs 14,500, stating, "If a ton of sugarcane earns this much, I will give up my factory to these so-called geniuses."

Yatnal explained that the reality is far different. In North Karnataka, there are 58 sugar factories, and one ton of sugarcane produces only about 102.5 kg of sugar, 45 kg of molasses, and 12.15 liters of ethanol. The electricity generated from processing adds a small amount, totaling roughly Rs 4,847 per ton—not Rs 14,500. He accused some people of deliberately spreading false information, misleading farmers, and creating unrealistic expectations. He demanded that legal action be taken against those who misinform farmers.

The MLA also criticized the state assembly and government sessions, saying they are often held for show. "Sessions are conducted for a few days and then officials travel elsewhere. In Nagpur, Maharashtra, sessions run for a month with all government offices present. Why can't we have the same in North Karnataka?" he questioned.

**Yatnal cited long-standing regional imbalance, noting South Karnataka produced 15 Chief Ministers since 1950 versus eight from the North, and none completed full terms amid neglected local needs**

Yatnal highlighted historical regional imbalance, pointing out that since 1950, South Karnataka has had 15 Chief Ministers while North Karnataka had only eight. He noted that no Chief Minister has completed a full five-year term, adding that current politics often ignore local needs.

Concluding his speech, Yatnal reaffirmed his commitment to farmers and North Karnataka. He urged the government to create an integrated Karnataka where resources, development, and opportunities are shared fairly across the state, and promised to prioritize farmers' interests above political pressures.

## Haliyal RSETI invites youth for training program

**KOPPAL**

Canara Bank Deshpande RSETI Institute in Haliyal is offering free training in electrical bike repair and JCB driving for unemployed youth aged 18–50 from rural areas. The programs will begin in the first week of January 2026, and the last date to register is December 23. Training includes technical skills, soft skills, yoga, and guidance on self-employment, bank loans, government schemes, and project report preparation. Food and accommodation are provided. Priority will be given to early applicants and rural candidates. Interested youth can apply online at www.rsetihaliyal.org or contact 9980510717 for details.

## CEO Madhav visits villages directly, solving rural problems instantly

**DAVANAGERE**

In a unique effort to improve rural life, Davanagere Zilla Panchayat CEO Madhav Gitte Vitthalarao has launched a daily program called "Morning Walk to Villages." Through this initiative, he visits five to six villages each morning to hear people's problems and provide solutions on the spot.

Rural areas often face challenges in water, sanitation, electricity, transportation, and basic services. While urban areas also have issues, addressing rural problems requires a personal approach. CEO Madhav recognized this and decided to bring officials directly to the villages rather than waiting for villagers to approach offices. He leads a team of officers during these morning visits, inspecting facilities like schools, hospitals, Anganwadi centers, Gram Panchayat offices, and Swachh complexes.

Since the program began, he has personally visited more than 50 out of 194 Gram Panchayats in the district. Many pressing issues were resolved immediately. For instance, electricity was installed in Gurusiddapura library within minutes after complaints from students. Construction of a new community hall in Hasagodu and restarting a solid waste unit in Asagodu were also carried out promptly.

CEO Madhav plans to expand the program by traveling to villages on a bicycle to ensure even smaller Gram Panchayats receive attention. Villagers have praised the effort, saying it benefits farmers, students, and the general public by providing immediate relief and follow-up. Anjinappa Poojar, a local villager, emphasized the need for officials to actively work alongside the CEO to ensure lasting results.

## Panchayat library staff demand salaries via DBT

**BELAGAVI**

Staff working in Gram Panchayat Libraries are still struggling to receive their salaries on time, creating serious hardships for them and their families. BJP legislator D.S. Arun raised the issue in the Legislative Council, saying many employees are not paid minimum wages and some have been unpaid for months. Tragically, two staff members reportedly took their own lives due to financial stress caused by unpaid salaries.

Arun urged that all library staff should receive a minimum salary of ₹12,000 directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). He also highlighted that many Panchayat libraries have not purchased new books, affecting the quality of service for local residents. Responding on behalf of Minister Priyank Kharge, Minister Santosh Lad acknowledged that ₹36 crore in pending salaries needs to be cleared. He said the Finance Department has been notified, and the payments will be processed as soon as possible. Lad also assured that salaries in the future would be disbursed directly through DBT to avoid delays.

In connection with one of the tragic suicides, the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) has been suspended, Lad said. The issue brings attention to the challenges faced

## Young artists shine in SBI Life competition

**DHARWAD**

Classic International Public School in Dharwad announced the results of a special Color Identification Painting Competition organized for its LKG and UKG children. The competition, held by the SBI Life Insurance branch in the city, aimed to encourage creativity and give young children a platform to express themselves through colors and simple drawings.

Teachers said the little ones showed great excitement and confidence as they picked colors and used them in their artwork. Many children surprised the judges with their neat work and cheerful imagination. After the evaluation, several students were selected for prizes.

The prize-winning children are: Ms. Sripriya Yaragambalimath, Ms. Mirahkonain Nadaf, Ms. Pranam Kulkarni, Ms. Satvik Gudagi, Ms. Dhanvi Ronada, Ms. Jeeva Goragaddi, Ms. Siri Hoogara, Ms. Mirah Garaga, Ms. Sambhram Patil, Ms. Samyuktha Karikatti, Ms. Lakshmana Ganigera, Ms. Alapa Shetty, and Ms. Nihala Mithare.

SBI Life Insurance officials distributed certificates and medals to all the winning participants, making the event a joyful celebration for the children and their parents. Those present included Deputy Regional Manager Manoj Kumar and others.

**GUARANTEE TURNS COSTLY**

# *Shakti Scheme pushes NWKRTC into crisis*

**HUBBALLI**

The popular Shakti Scheme, launched by the Congress government under its five Guarantees initiative, is now causing serious financial trouble for the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC). The scheme, which allows women to travel free on state buses, has left the transport corporation with nearly Rs 988 crore in pending dues.

Introduced in June 2023, the Shakti Scheme quickly became a lifeline for women across Karnataka. Millions of female passengers now rely on free bus services for daily travel. NWKRTC serves districts including Dharwad, Bagalkote, Belagavi, Gadag, Haveri, and Uttara Kannada, transporting over 27 lakh passengers daily—17 lakh of whom are women.

K.S.R.T.C
N.W.K.R.T.C
Non A/C Sleeper Coach
GOVT. VEHICLE
ASHOK LEYLAND
KA-14 F-0079
KA31 F1529
ADI931 BUS photography

However, the government has reportedly been slow in reimbursing the corporation. Only about 75% of the promised funds have been released each month over the past two and a half years, causing arrears to accumulate. This delay is putting a severe strain on NWKRTC's finances, which were already under pressure from operating losses.

The financial crunch is affecting critical operations such as bus maintenance, repairs, and staff salaries. NWKRTC Managing Director Priyanka said the corporation is grateful for government support like bus purchases and other facilities. However, she emphasized that clearing the outstanding payments would greatly ease the burden and ensure smooth daily operations.

Passengers continue to benefit from free travel under the scheme, but the corporation is struggling behind the scenes to maintain services. Officials hope that prompt reimbursement of dues will help NWKRTC recover financially and continue providing reliable transport for millions across the region.

## QUICK READ

### Gadag invites NGOs for Mental Health Center

**Gadag**

The District Health and Family Welfare Department of Gadag has called for expressions of interest from experienced NGOs to establish a Community Mental Health Day Care Center, Manasadhara, for the rehabilitation of mental health patients. Eligible organizations can access the notification and application details on www.kppp.karnataka.gov. in between December 11 and 19, 2025, by 4:00 PM. Applicants must appear in person with original documents at the District Health and Family Welfare Officer's office on December 22 at 11:00 AM for verification. For further details, NGOs can contact the department directly.

### Four girls missing from Bagalkot school found

**Bagalkot**

Four Class 10 students from Morarji Residential School in Navanagar went missing around 7:30 PM on Thursday. A complaint was filed at the Women's Police Station, and police immediately began searching. Based on information from friends that the students were heading toward Hungund, the investigation traced one student's mobile phone to Vijayapura. At 2 AM, Gandhi Chowk police in Vijayapura took the girls into custody and returned them to Bagalkot Navanagar Women's Police Station by 4 AM on early Friday. The students were later handed over to their parents. A case has been registered, and SP Siddharth Goyal said investigations into the reason for their disappearance are ongoing.

### Koppal to review taluk guarantee schemes on Dec 20

**Koppal**

A progress review meeting for Koppal Taluk-level guarantee schemes will be held on December 20 at 11 AM in the Koppal Taluk Panchayat Hall. The meeting will be chaired by Balachandran Samuel, Chairman of the Koppal Taluk Level Guarantee Schemes Committee. Officials will review the progress of five state government guarantee schemes and discuss related matters. Implementing officers of the schemes have been instructed to attend in person with all necessary information, without sending representatives, the Koppal Taluk Panchayat executive officers stated.

# Minister denies knowledge of MLAs' dinner party

Dr. Patil highlighted Congress's democratic structure and discipline, contrasting it with BJP, emphasizing public welfare and development priorities

**BELAGAVI**

Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharanprakash Patil clarified that he had no knowledge of the reported dinner party involving the Chief Minister, other ministers, and MLAs. Speaking during the ongoing winter session, he said he had gone to his room after the cabinet meeting and was unaware of any such gathering. "There was no political meeting for any reason. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers have made it clear that there is no confusion in the party. Media is creating unnecessary rumors," he added.

Responding to questions about statements by Yatindra Siddaramaiah regarding leadership changes, Dr. Patil said he had no information. "Everyone can express personal opinions, but final decisions are taken by the CM, Deputy CM, national president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi," he explained.

On party structure, Dr. Patil emphasized that the Congress operates with a democratic system and freedom of speech. "Unlike the BJP's top-down approach, our party is disciplined yet democratic," he said. He also addressed criticisms comparing government actions with others, stressing that the administration always prioritizes public welfare and development.

Regarding development in North Karnataka, the minister said senior leaders have carefully planned regional progress, ensuring Kannada-speaking areas remain unified. "Northern Karnataka still needs more development. Our government focuses on Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka, supporting irrigation and other projects," he said. He cited the 371J initiative by Mallikarjun Kharge to benefit Kalyana Karnataka and the annual winter session at Belagavi's Suvarna Vidhana Soudha as steps to prioritize the region.

Dr. Patil highlighted that Karnataka has the highest number of medical colleges in the state, with Congress governments historically emphasizing northern regions. He acknowledged that MLAs in North Karnataka actively work for their constituencies, and while southern Karnataka has advanced historically due to previous administrative and geographical factors, the northern region is steadily catching up under current initiatives.

KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA MIN ZOO
ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ
WELCOME

# New reptile enclosure coming to Belagavi Zoo

**Minister Khandre said mini zoo upgrades will attract tourists and wildlife enthusiasts, offering educational and recreational experiences while promoting nature connection and wildlife conservation awareness**

**BELAGAVI**

Belagavi's Kittur Rani Chennamma Mini Zoo in Bhutaramanahatti is set for exciting new additions, including a reptile and crocodile enclosure, announced Forest, Biology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre.

During his visit to the zoo to review construction progress, Khandre said a crocodile enclosure costing Rs. 50 lakh and a reptile enclosure costing Rs. 40.8 lakh are under construction. Once completed, the enclosures will house two crocodiles and twelve snakes, including python, Kalinga snake, and Mandal.

The zoo is also adding a cinema hall to screen documentaries about wildlife and educate visitors, which will be inaugurated soon. In addition, a spacious parking area and a statue of the brave Kittur Rani Chennamma are being built as part of development work totaling Rs. 5.85 crore. Most of the work is expected to be completed by the first week of January.

In the bird section, transparent glass panels have been installed, making it easier for visitors to watch and photograph the birds up close.

Minister Khandre expressed confidence that these improvements will make the mini zoo more attractive to tourists and wildlife enthusiasts. He said the upgrades aim to provide both educational and recreational experiences, helping visitors connect with nature while highlighting the importance of wildlife conservation. The new enclosures and facilities are expected to draw more families and students, making Belagavi Zoo a key attraction in the region.

# Actor Ramakrishna urges students to stay pure

**SIRSI**

Renowned film actor Neernalli Ramakrishna Hegde urged students to lead pure lives and avoid harmful habits during his speech at the inauguration of Karnataka University's Uttara Kannada Zonal Level Youth Festival. The event was held at MES Institute's MM Kala and Vigyan Bayalu Ranga Mandir on Friday, December 12.

Speaking to the students, Ramakrishna highlighted the growing concerns about young people consuming gutka, paan, and other substances. "Today, the ghost of drugs has taken over students, which is truly alarming," he said. He stressed that staying away from such vices is essential for building a healthy and successful life.

The actor also emphasized the importance of education, noting that students move from primary school to high school and eventually to college. He reminded them that parents work hard to support their children and nurture their dreams. "Making those dreams come true should be the goal of every young student," he added.

Ramakrishna's message combined moral guidance with encouragement, urging students to focus on their studies, cultivate discipline, and make responsible choices. He said that the purity of mind and actions would help students achieve personal success and positively impact society.

*Day-one sessions cover Gram Swaraj, Panchayat laws, decentralization, policies, and empowerment, with experts offering guidance and research opportunities*

# National Conference Strengthens Rural Panchayat Governance

**GADAG**

The 18th National Panchayat Parishad Conference will be held on December 13 (today) and 14, 2025, at the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University in Gadag. Organized by the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Parishad, Bangalore, in collaboration with the University and sponsored by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka, the two-day conference aims to strengthen the roots of rural democracy and empower Panchayat Raj institutions.

Speaking at a press conference, All India Panchayat Parishad President and former Union Minister Subodh Kant Sahai emphasized the historic role of Panchayati Raj in India. He explained that committees such as the Balwant Rai Mehwa Committee and the Ashok Mehwa Committee laid the foundation for the three-tier system and institutional autonomy. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions, making village-level governance a cornerstone of India's democracy.

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Technical sessions on the first day will focus on Gandhian principles of Gram Swaraj, Panchayat Acts, decentralized administration, policies, and community empowerment. Experts, social activists, and leaders of the Panchayat movement will serve as resource persons and offer research opportunities for participants.

On the second day, discussions will cover the empowerment of Panchayat Raj institutions, localization of Sustainable Development Goals, and the use of information technology in rural development. The concluding ceremony will feature valedictory addresses by national-level Panchayat leaders and senior administrators.

The inaugural program, scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on December 13, will be inaugurated by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Other dignitaries include the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti, Minister Priyanka Kharge, and Dr. H.K. Patil, Minister in-charge of Gadag District. Over 1,500 Panchayat representatives, district officials, subject experts, faculty, and students from across the state and country are expected to attend.

The conference provides a national platform for dialogue on Gram Swaraj, decentralized governance, and sustainable rural development, highlighting the importance of Panchayat institutions in strengthening India's democracy.

# '10-year jail for hate speech' Bill reflects Congs' cruel tradition: Joshi

**NEW DELHI/HUBBALLI**

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi criticized the Karnataka Congress government's new bill prescribing a 10-year jail term for hate speech, calling it a reflection of the party's "cruel tradition."

Joshi said the legislation creates an atmosphere of fear among the public and is evidently designed to serve political control. He alleged that the state government, through this law, is curbing freedom of speech and showcasing the Congress party's authoritarian tendencies, facilitating misgovernance.

He claimed the bill, officially titled the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prohibitory) Act, has been introduced to silence dissent and suppress public opinion, rather than genuinely curb hate speech. According to Joshi, the legislation appears less about promoting social harmony and more about stifling voices that question the government's actions.

The minister further alleged that the law is intended to protect the government from criticism, keep its misrule hidden, and intimidate lawmakers and citizens alike. Joshi expressed strong disapproval, asserting that the legislation is a deliberate attempt to shield the government from accountability and curtail democratic debate.

# Online applications invited for key welfare schemes 2025–26

**GADAG**

The Karnataka State Women Development Corporation has invited online applications for various welfare schemes for the year 2025–26. These include the Rehabilitation Scheme for Former Devadasis, Employment Scheme, Chetana Scheme, Dhanashree Scheme, and the Rehabilitation Scheme for Gender Minorities. Applications can be submitted through Grama One, Karnataka One, Bapuji Seva Kendra, and Bangalore One centres.

Under the Dhanashree and Gender Minorities schemes, applications may be submitted both online and offline. Offline forms should be submitted at the office of the Deputy Director, Women and Child Development Department, Gadag.

Applicants must attach documents such as Aadhaar Card, Aadhaar-linked bank passbook, caste and income certificates, scheme report, and registration certificates for Chetana and Gender Minority schemes. Former Devadasis must provide certificates issued during government surveys held in 1993–94 or 2007–08.

Age limits vary by scheme: Dhanashree Scheme (18–60 years), Chetana Scheme (18 years and above), and Ujjaini Scheme (18–55 years). Those who applied earlier and did not receive benefits need not apply again. The last date for submitting applications is January 15, 2026, before 5:30 p.m. For details, applicants can contact the Development Inspector at the Deputy Director's Office in the District Administration Building, Room No. 006.

Meanwhile, power supply in Gadag will be disrupted on December 17 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. due to maintenance at the 110 kV power station. Several substations and essential services will be affected, and the public has been requested to cooperate.

# CM Siddaramaiah to visit Gadag today

**GADAG**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit Gadag district on December 13 (today), and the district administration has released the complete schedule of his one-day tour. The visit includes participation in major educational events and a review meeting with senior officials.

According to the programme, the Chief Minister will depart from the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha helipad in Belagavi at 10:20 a.m. on Saturday. He is expected to arrive at the helipad located on the grounds of Sri Uma PU College in Lakshmeshwara at 11:15 a.m.

Soon after his arrival, Siddaramaiah will attend the Bharat Ratna Prof. C.N.R. Rao 10th Year Science Extension Program–2025. The event is being organized to promote science education among students. He will also take part in the prestigious Chandan Shri Award ceremony for 2025, hosted by the Chandan Education Society of Lakshmeshwara. The award programme is expected to draw educators, students, and local leaders from across the region.

Following these events, the Chief Minister will chair a meeting with district-level officials. The meeting will focus on reviewing development works, progress of ongoing projects, and issues raised by local departments. Officials are preparing reports and updates ahead of the session.

The tour will conclude in the afternoon. At 3 p.m., Siddaramaiah will leave for Hubballi Airport by helicopter from the Sri Uma PU College helipad. The district administration has made necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth visit.

UNION SEEKS BALANCE

# *Vokkaligas demand equal opportunities across taluks*

**SHIVAMOGGA**

Leaders of the Shivamogga District Vokkaligas Union have called for fair representation of Vokkaligas from all taluks in the district. Speaking at a press conference, Union President Go. Ramesh Gowda highlighted that the Shivamogga District Vokkaligas Association, approaching its 75th year, currently has only about 5,000 members, even though lakhs of Vokkaligas live across the district.

He pointed out that nearly 85 percent of the members come from Tirthahalli taluk, while the remaining six taluks together contribute only 15 percent of the membership.

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SHIVAMOGGA PRESS TRUST
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Many Vokkaligas from Shivamogga rural, Bhadravati, and other areas have been unable to join the association. Despite repeated written and verbal appeals, Gowda said, equality in membership has not been achieved.

Gowda criticized the association for concentrating most director positions and membership allocations within one taluk. According to him, 2–3 director positions are nominally assigned to other taluks, while the rest go to Tirthahalli. Each director can approve only about 20 membership applications, mostly favoring relatives or people from their taluk, leaving large sections of the Vokkaliga community unrepresented.

The association will hold its general meeting on Sunday, December 14, and the union has urged the leadership to address this issue openly. Members are requested to gather in front of the association office on Balaraj Aras Road at 10 a.m. to advocate for fair and equal opportunities.

Gowda emphasized that the demonstration will remain peaceful, with participants holding display cards calling for equality and inclusiveness. "The association should not be the property of a few leaders or a single family. All members must unite and participate equally," he said.

Union Secretary S.M. Devendra and directors Vinod Kumar, Krishnappa, Diwakar, Shantamma, Madegowda, Kumar, and Dinesh were present at the press conference.

The union hopes that highlighting these disparities will strengthen unity among Vokkaligas and ensure fair opportunities for all taluks in the future.

# District Collector Venkatesh urges timely farmer relief

## District Collector T. Venkatesh directs agriculture and horticulture officials to ensure timely farmer compensation and resolve grievances efficiently

**CHITRADURGA**

District Collector T. Venkatesh directed agriculture and horticulture officials to provide timely support to farmers and ensure rapid resolution of their issues. Speaking at a farmers' grievance redressal meeting on Friday, he emphasized that officials must actively engage with farmers, inform them about government schemes, and address their concerns at the local level.

Officials were instructed to conduct joint crop surveys, implement crop-cutting experiments, and provide interim crop compensation information, ensuring that no eligible farmer faces injustice.

Strict action will be taken against officers failing to conduct proper crop assessments. For the current Kharif season, 769 farmers who suffered crop losses due to excessive rainfall have already received Rs. 1.09 crore in compensation. Technical issues delaying payments to some farmers are being resolved to ensure all eligible beneficiaries receive support.

Regarding past grievances, a Rs. 46 crore irregularity related to crop compensation in 2023–24 is under investigation, with FIRs filed and regional commissioners appointed to probe the matter.

The Collector also announced the declaration of 139 new revenue villages, with preparations underway for issuing house ownership certificates and e-property documents. Officials reported that in Dyamavvanahalli Panchayat, 32 farmers received crop compensation, and in Chitradurga taluk, 1,130 farmers applied, with 450 payments already disbursed. Authorities were instructed to publish eligible and ineligible farmer lists publicly and provide clear communication to those pending relief.

Farmer leaders stressed that effective field-level implementation by agriculture and horticulture officials will prevent disputes and ensure insurance and compensation reach all affected farmers. Key participants included Additional District Collector B.T. Kumaraswamy, Joint Agriculture Director B. Manjunath, Joint Horticulture Director G. Savita, departmental officers, and local farmer representatives.

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# New Panchayat buildings inauguration in Devanahalli today

**BENGALURU RURAL**

**Bengaluru Rural inaugurates new Panchayat buildings, drinking water units, and school facilities in Devanahalli Taluk, boosting local governance and infrastructure**

The Public Works and Urban Development Departments of Bengaluru Rural District are set to inaugurate several new infrastructure projects, including the new office building for the Bengaluru International Airport Area Development Authority (BIAADA/BYAP), at Ambika Layout on Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town. The inauguration is scheduled for December 13, Saturday, at 11:00 AM. The project, constructed at an estimated cost of ₹6.45 crore, aims to strengthen administrative facilities in the region.

Additionally, the new Kundana Gram Panchayat building, a clean drinking water unit for Kundana and Venkatapura villages, and a school classroom in Devaganahalli village will be inaugurated at 1:00 PM in the premises of Kundana Gram Panchayat. The ceremony will be led by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, while K.H. Muniyappa, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, will preside over the event.

Several dignitaries will be present, including Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge, Fifth Finance Commission Chairperson C. Narayanaswamy, and MLA Sharath Kumar Bacchegowda. Lok Sabha MP Dr. K. Sudhakar, Legislative Council members S. Ravi, Putta, N. Nagaraj, Ramoji Gowda, and Dheeraj Muniraj from Doddaballapur, along with various authority heads including B. Rajanna, V. Shantakumar, and C. Jagannath, will also attend.

The event will further include key administrative officials such as Additional Chief Secretaries, District Collectors, CEOs, and police superintendents. Elected representatives, nominated members, community leaders, and the general public from across the district are expected to participate, marking the inauguration as a significant milestone in the district's development initiatives.

This initiative highlights the government's ongoing focus on enhancing local governance, providing better public services, and improving infrastructure across Bengaluru Rural District.

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# HM Revanna's son's car hits two-wheeler, rider dies

**MAGADI**

A fatal road accident occurred in Gudemaradahalli of Magadi taluk on Thursday night, involving the car of R. Shashank, son of Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee Chairman H.M. Revanna. The victim has been identified as Rajesh (27) from Belagumba village. He was employed at a private company in Bengaluru and was returning home around 10 pm when the incident took place. Rajesh was riding his two-wheeler when Shashank's car, travelling from Magadi towards Bengaluru, allegedly collided with it. The impact threw Rajesh onto the road, killing him on the spot. Kuduru Police visited the scene and have initiated further legal procedures.

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# Meeting on rescue, rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers

**CHITRADURGA**

Tehsildar Nagaveni chaired a meeting on Friday at the Molkalmuru Taluk office focusing on the identification, rescue, and rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. She directed officials to ensure that children found outside school are brought back to the mainstream education system.

Two specialized teams have already been formed to regularly visit targeted locations each month, rescue children engaged in labor, and safeguard their rights. Officials were instructed to monitor these children's reintegration into schools and provide necessary support for their well-being.

Following these directions, a sudden inspection was conducted in Rampur village targeting various commercial establishments. During the operation, a child laborer employed at a local garage was rescued and handed over to the Child Welfare Committee for protection and rehabilitation.

The operation was attended by T. Kusuma, Labor Inspector of Challakere Circle; P. Satish Kumar, Director of the District Child Labor Project Society; Nirmala, Field Education Officer; Naveen Kumar, Child Development Project Officer; Chandan, Coordinator of the Child Helpline; staff from the District Child Protection Unit; Dhananjay from the shelter home Batral; Manjunath, leader of the Alemeri community; and representatives from the police department.

The initiative aims to enforce child labor laws, ensure the safety and rights of children, and facilitate their education and rehabilitation, reinforcing the government's commitment to protecting vulnerable minors in Molkalmuru Taluk.

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## ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ – ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

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ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29787452, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dhobangalorerural@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸರಬ/12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025

### ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಔಷಧಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ಸ್ಯೂಮಬಲ್ಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

KPPP Tender Ref No: DHFWS/2025-26/IND2004 ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **12/12/2025**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01/01/2026**

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಸಹಿ/–**
**ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು**
**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.**

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4430/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

## THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-MDR-Bridge/2025-26/3540
Dated:11.12.2025

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)(2nd Call)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Work Department) 01 work, As per standard bid documents KW-4 with head of accounts 5054-03-101-0-02-132 (MDR Bridge) and **Work Indent-22334/Call-2** costing of amount for Rs. **4450.00/-** Lakhs, and the EMD amount of Rs. **44,50,000/-** for the work. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date:24.12.2025 at 11.00 AM 2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 30.12.2025 upto 4.30 PM. 3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-01.01.2026 at 11.00 AM 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date- 02.01.2026 at 11.00 AM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/539/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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## Public Works Department

**Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur**

### Invitation for Tender (I.F.T.)
### No.: 13/2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025

**(For Building /Road /Bridge maintenance / construction Works–As per standard Bid Document KW 1,2,3&4 in two cover system.)**

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders till **Date:16.12.2025, 18.12.2025, 22.12.2025 and 26.12.2025 up to 04:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Chikkaballapur.**

DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O.No.302 /KSMCA/2025-26

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## NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

E-mail: **cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com**
Phone & Fax: **08156-272388**
No:NMC&RI/CKB/E-TENDER/02/2025-26 Date:08.12.2025

### TENDER NOTIFICATION

Nandi Medical College & Research Institution Teaching Hospital Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the E-Tenders for the following subjects. **(1)** Supplly And Installation Of Automated Tissue Processor Equipments **(2)** Furnitures For HOD Chambers **(3)** Supply and installation of Microscopes **(4)** Supply and Installation Of Computeres, Printers & UPS **(5)** Supply for Chemicals and Reagents. **For further information about tender the details please log on to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. **Note:** For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website **i.e., https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Director, NMC&RI, Chikkaballapura**

DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O.No.298 /KSMCA/2025-26

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### CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKSHAYA S/o SHANKAR DEVADIGA, R/o 3-23, Ajjaramane Kuruval, Kundapura Taluk, Naikanakatte kergal, Kundapura, Udupi, Karnataka, PIN Code: 576219,, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKSHAY SHANKAR DEVADIGA.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, HARSH RAVI JOSHI S/o Ravi Joshi, R/o T-5 Shrindhi Apartment, Somawar Peth, Tilkawadi, Belagavi, Karnataka - 590006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARSH JOSHI.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,SUHANI MURAL (Old name)**
**Address:**
**NIKETAN HERITAGE**
**APPT GOKUL ROAD HUBLI.**
**Has changed my name:**
**SUHANI**
**SOMSHEKAR MURAL**
**(New name) for all purposes.**
**Vide Affidavit**
**Dated: 11/12/2025**
**before notary public Hubli.**

### NAME CHANGE

I, **VIVEK KANGRALKAR**, resident of at No. 1490, 8th Main,4th Cross, Jidicial Layout, Allasandra; Bangalore – 560065, have changed my name to **VIVEKANAND SADANAND KANGRALKAR**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

### NAME CHANGE

I, **SANIKA**, D/o. Vivekanand Sadanand Kangralkar, Resident of at No. 1490, 8th Main, 4th Cross, Jidicial Layout, Allasandra, Bangalore-560065, have changed my name to **SANIKA V KANGRALKAR**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 12.12.2025 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

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**BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (SPECIAL SUB COURT) AT TIRUAPTTUR, TIRUPATTUR DISTRICT.,**
**M.C.O.P. No. 67 / 2025**

**Lakshmi** **Petitioner**
Vs
**Seenivasan and another**
**Respondent**

To, **Seenivasan** S/o. Jayaram Azhagiri No.219, Andhra Colony Narayanapuram, Doorvani Nagar, Bangalore Karnataka State 560016.

Sir, Please take notice that the above case has been filed by the petitioner claiming compensation for the injury of Lakshmi in the road accident. The above case has been posted on 19/12/2025 for your appearances and you are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble court on 19/12/2025 at 10.30 a.m., either in person or through an advocate and file your objections. As otherwise the above case will be decided exparte.

**S. KALAISELVI,** B.A.,B.L.,
MS.No: 3045/2010 Advocate,
Thamba Complex, Ground Floor,
Periyakulam Near,
Tirupattur-635 601. TPT.Dt.
Cell: 94439 89374

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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**
**(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)**
**C.S. COMM.DIV 198 OF 2022**

**M/s. Sri Padman Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.** **...Plaintiff**
**Versus**
**M/s. Bookmed technologies Pvt. Ltd. &Ors.** **...Defendants**

**NOTICE**

**TO**
**D5- Vijay Simha H.N.**
**Son of Padma Narasinga Rao**
**No. 3C/13, Nandi Gardens,**
**Phase-1, J.P. Nagar, 9th Phase,**
**Bengaluru – 560 062.**
**D6- Indira H.N.**
**Daughter of Padma Narasinga Rao**
**No. 3C/13, Nandi Gardens,**
**Phase-1, J.P. Nagar, 9th Phase,**
**Bengaluru – 560 062.**

Please take note that in the above suit, an Application was taken out for substituted service bearing A.No. 5474 of 2025 before the Hon'ble Madras High Court. The said Application came up for hearing on 12/11/2025 and the Hon'ble Court was pleased to issue paper publication. You are called upon to enter appearance either in person or through a Counsel on 17/12/2025, failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence

V. Srimathi
Avinash Wadhwani
Counsel for Plaintiff

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## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle,
Bengaluru-01. Phone: 080-22133370 E-mail:eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
No.42/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025

### SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, **for the work of PWD, No.2 North, Anekal & Hoskote Sub Divisions under this office** noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for Procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for **04 works (Rs.6.00 Lakhs to Rs.20.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender Processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** **(1)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on dated: 20.12.2025** **(2)** The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on Dated: **22.12.2025 at 4.30 P.M.** or further date and time **will be intimate.** For more details contact this office.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**

DIPR/DD-C.P/4405/KSMCA/2025-26

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## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
**ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5,**
**ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192–264669**
**ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eebcddvg@yahoo.co.in**

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ/ಭ.ನಾ.ವಿ.5/ದಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/2700 ಮ್ಯಾನ್‌ಪವರ್/
2025–26/1860 ದಿನಾಂಕ:10–12–2025

### ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– **EE/KNNL/No.5/BCD/DVG/PB/2700-Man power Supply/Call-2/2025-26/1859, Dt:10-12-2025**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2700 ಭದ್ರಾ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.71.60 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ರೂ.99.30ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.12.2025 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–12–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–12–2025 ರಂದು 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–12–2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–12–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುಗಿವುದು.

ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :–04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು
(ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KNNL/2025-26/SE0239/Call-2, SE0240/Call-2, SE0241/Call-2 & SE0244/Call-2)

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗಿಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/557/
ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

**ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,**
**ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.**

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## MI &GWD Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &
Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75
Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar
taluk & District. E-Mail: eemidklr@rediffmail.com,
eemigwddkolar@gmail.com, Landline No: 08152-200049

**No:EE/MI/Kol/TA/AE/Tender Notification/1894/2025-26/ Dtd:10.12.2025**

### Short term recalled tender notification no: 19/2025-26/ Dtd:10.12.2025

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system for the 04 number of work. The tender procedure as per Rule of KTPP Act and standard tender document KW-1 (02 work), KC-6 (01 Work), & KC-5 (01 Work), shall be followed for Maximum amount of Rs. 245.00 Lakhs & Minimum amount of Rs. 1.06 Lakhs. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** starts **from Dt:10.12.2025 04:30 PM.** Last date of uploading tender documents **upto Dt:20.12.2025 04:30 PM. Pre bid meeting for KC-6 work Date:16.12.2025 @11:30 AM at Office of the Executive Engineer MI & GWD division, Kolar.** Opening of technical bid **Dt:22.12.2025 @ 04:30 PM.** The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through **website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water, Development Division, Kolar.**

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:399/KSMCA/2025-26

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## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.

**No. FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025** **Bengaluru, December 13, 2025**

### PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.27% Karnataka SDL 2026** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka,** Finance Department Notification **No. FD 01 BMB 2015(P) Dated January 08, 2016** will be repaid at par on **January 13, 2026** with interest due up to and including **January 12, 2026.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after January 13, 2026**

**2.** As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

**3.** However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.27% Karnataka SDL 2026** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

**"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".**

**4.** It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

**5.** Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

**Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)**
**Joint Secretary to Government**
**(Budget & Resources), Finance Department**

**DIPR/CP/4326/Zen/2025-26**

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad
contact: **080-41209042**

## QUICK READ

### Cold, pollution, shrinking rivers worsen Kashmir's harsh winter woes

**Srinagar**

Biting cold with no prospect of major rain/snowfall till the end of the month continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday as minimum temperature remained several notches below the freezing point in the Valley. Srinagar city had minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam minus 4.6 and Gulmarg zero as a minimum temperature. An extended dry spell has resulted in several serious problems erupting in Kashmir. Due to the lack of rain/snow, the suspended particulate matter (SPM) has mixed with low-lying fog, especially in areas in and around Srinagar city, resulting in smog.

### J&K Police file charge sheet in date of birth forgery case

**Srinagar**

J&K Crime Branch said on Friday that it has filed a charge sheet in the court against an accused for forging his date of birth to get a regular appointment in the Public Works Department. A statement issued by the Crime Branch Kashmir said, Special Crime Wing (Crime Branch) Kashmir in a firm action against fraud, forgery and destruction of evidence, produced charge sheet in case FIR No. 07/2022 under section 420,468,471,201 RPC before the Hon'ble Court of CJM Handwara on 11.12.25 against an accused employee who deliberately forged and used a fake date of birth certificate to secure illegal regularisation in Public Works Department (R&B).

### Smog blankets Delhi as AQI turns very poor again

**New Delhi**

Delhi woke up to a dense blanket of smog on Friday, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 331 at 7 a.m., placing the city once again in the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Jahangirpuri emerged as the worst-affected locality in the national capital with an AQI of 405, pushing it into the 'severe' zone. The smog and shallow fog significantly reduced visibility across the national capital. Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 395, while other pollution hotspots included Vivek Vihar at 393, Ashok Vihar at 382, Bawana at 373, NSIT Dwarka at 388, Rohini at 385, Wazirpur at 397, Chandni Chowk at 368, and DTU at 371.

# Nine Pilgrims Killed, 23 Injured as Bus Falls Into Gorge in Alluri Sitharamaraju District

9 pilgrims died and 23 sustained injuries after a private bus plunged into a deep gorge early Friday morning

**VISAKHAPATNAM**

Nine pilgrims lost their lives and 23 others were injured when a private travel bus fell into a gorge in Alluri Sitharamaraju district during the early hours of Friday. The tragic accident occurred along the Chintur–Naredumilli ghat road after the driver reportedly failed to negotiate a sharp turn, hitting a safety wall before the vehicle plunged into the gorge.

The bus, which had 37 occupants including two drivers, was travelling from Araku to Bhadrachalam. All passengers were residents of Chittoor district and were on a pilgrimage tour to various temples in north Andhra and neighbouring Telangana, with Bhadrachalam Temple being their next destination.

Rescue efforts were delayed initially due to the absence of mobile network coverage in the remote accident location, resulting in a lag before authorities were informed. Police teams rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation, recovering nine bodies. The injured were taken to a hospital in Chintur, while five critically injured passengers were shifted to Bhadrachalam for advanced treatment. Five police vehicles and three ambulances were deployed to support the rescue operation.

Preliminary investigations suggest that dense fog may have reduced visibility, contributing to the mishap. Officials also believe the driver, unfamiliar with the route, lost control of the bus at the curve.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock over the tragedy and directed officials to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured. Home Minister V. Anitha and Tribal Welfare and Women and Child Welfare Minister G. Sandhya Rani visited the accident site and instructed district authorities to provide all necessary assistance to the victims and their families.

## 'Dignified leader has left us': Tributes pour in for Shivraj Patil

**NEW DELHI**

Leaders across party lines on Friday expressed deep grief over the passing of former Union Home Minister and veteran Congress leader Shivraj Patil, remembering him as a dignified statesman who served the nation with unwavering commitment.

Patil, 90, breathed his last at his residence 'Devghar' in Latur, Maharashtra, after a brief illness. NCP(Sharad Pawar) MP Supriya Sule recalled the long political association between her party chief, Sharad Pawar and Shivraj Patil. Paying tribute, she said, For many years, Sharad Pawar and Shivraj Patil worked together… He has left behind a great legacy… The country has lost a very dignified leader. Today, on behalf of my party and family, I pay him heartfelt tribute.

Congress MP Sukhdeo Bhagat described Patil as a disciplined and towering figure in national politics. He was certainly a very senior and disciplined leader, and we are saddened by his passing. Whenever a person of such stature, who has dedicated their entire life to a great cause, leaves us, it is deeply felt. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire family, he said.

Shiv Sena(UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav also expressed sorrow, highlighting Patil's commitment to public service. Shivraj Patil Chakurkar passed away today. I am deeply saddened to hear this news. He had served for many years in Maharashtra and in the nation's Parliament. I always admired and respected his dedication to his work and principles, Jadhav stated.

## Former Telangana SIB chief surrenders before SIT

**HYDERABAD**

Telangana Special Intelligence Bureau's former chief T. Prabhakar Rao surrendered before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the phone tapping case on Friday. A day after the Supreme Court's direction, the retired IPS official surrendered before the SIT at the Jubilee Hills Police Station.

The Supreme Court allowed the custodial interrogation of Prabhakar Rao for a week. A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan asked him to surrender for the purpose of custodial interrogation.

The bench directed that there should be no physical torture or hardship during the interrogation. It also allowed Prabhakar Rao to have food from his home as well as medication regularly.

The court passed the orders while hearing Prabhakar Rao's petition for anticipatory bail.

Earlier, the Supreme Court, while protecting the SIB chief, had asked him to provide the correct ID and password for his iCloud and other cloud backups to the investigating agency.

Appearing for the state, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had brought to the court's notice that Rao reset passwords for only two out of five iCloud accounts. The court was also told that Rao had destroyed the data along with the hard disks and dumped them in a river.

Appearing for Rao, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar said one of the accounts could not be reset because the US mobile number associated with it was deactivated and could not be reactivated.

Ranjit Kumar told the court the data was deleted following official protocols on the order of the Review Committee as the information was sensitive. He said that the minutes of the Review Committee meeting held on December 2, 2023, would establish this.

## BJP Accuses Mamata Banerjee of Double Standards Over Enumeration Form Submission

**KOLKATA**

BJP alleged Mamata Banerjee misled citizens by protesting enumeration yet quietly submitting her form on final day.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of displaying double standards and misleading the public over her stance on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration process. The party claimed that despite Banerjee's repeated assertions that she would not file her enumeration form as a mark of protest, she eventually submitted it on the last day of the process.

BJP Information Technology Cell Chief Amit Malviya criticised the Chief Minister, stating that she had once again attempted to deceive voters. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again shown her instinct to mislead. She submitted her duly filled and signed Enumeration Form on the very last day, yet just hours earlier from a rally in Krishnanagar, she falsely claimed she would not submit it at all, he said.

This is not the first time Banerjee has claimed she would boycott the enumeration forms. Earlier, when the revision exercise began on November 4, she had declared she would refrain from filing her form until all voters in the state had completed theirs. She alleged that the Election Commission of India (ECI) had rushed the revision exercise, prompting her symbolic protest.

Malviya, in a social media post, alleged that after months of spreading misinformation and attempting to create confusion about the SIR process, the Chief Minister ultimately submitted her form on December 11, the deadline for West Bengal, in order to remain a valid voter. He further claimed that voters in the state ignored her appeals, with nearly 100% of them completing the process. While the ECI extended the enumeration deadline for five states and one Union Territory, West Bengal's deadline remained unchanged.

## Driver of killer truck remains absconding in Sandeshkhali witness accident case

**KOLKATA**

Two days after Satyajit Ghosh, the younger son of Bhola Ghosh, a key witness in a criminal case against Sheikh Shahjahan, the suspended Trinamool Congress leader from Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, was killed in a suspicious road accident, the driver of the killer truck remains at large. Satyajit died on Wednesday, and the truck driver, identified as Abdul Ali Mollah, has not been arrested yet.

Satyajit accompanied his father, Bhola Ghosh, to the trial court to get his statement against Shahjahan recorded. In the accident, although Bhola Ghosh had a close shave, Satyajit and the driver of the vehicle, Shahnur Molla, died on the spot.

Although initially information surfaced that the vehicle had a head-on collision with the killer truck, later Bhola Ghosh told media persons that the truck had hit their vehicle from behind, not once but twice. He also claimed that even after hitting twice, the killer truck kept on thrusting the vehicle till it fell into the roadside gutter.

Ghosh's claims had been corroborated by some eyewitnesses present at the spot for the media persons.

Bhola Ghosh filed a written complaint at Nazat police station under Basirhat district police, naming eight persons he alleged were responsible for the accident in which he narrowly escaped, though his younger son died.

The first two names in the written complaint are those of Sheikh Shahjahan and his wife, Taslima Bibi. On Thursday evening, the sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), who had been carrying out the probe in different cases against Sheikh Shahjahan, visited the residence of Bhola Ghosh and enquired about the mishap. The CBI has recently submitted details of around 3,000 individual complaints registered against Sheikh Shahjahan in the Calcutta High Court.

*Maharashtra BJP chief Ravindra Chavan denied coercion allegations and affirmed MahaYuti partners will contest civic polls together.*

## Ravindra Chavan denies coercion claims, reiterates MahaYuti unity

**NAGPUR**

Maharashtra BJP President Ravindra Chavan on Friday strongly refuted allegations that the party was pressuring leaders from alliance partners or the Opposition to defect, asserting that the BJP has always followed coalition dharma within the ruling MahaYuti alliance.

Chavan highlighted the accommodative approach of the alliance under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and confirmed that the three constituents — the BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar-led NCP — will jointly contest the upcoming local body elections. These polls, including the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election, must be concluded by January 31, 2026, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

His remarks come at a time of heightened political activty in Maharashtra following public disagreements between BJP and Shiv Sena leaders during elections to 264 local bodies, where both sides fielded competing candidates in several wards.

Addressing the allegations directly, Chavan said, BJP has never coerced anybody from the ruling parties or the Opposition to join us. He countered accusations by pointing out that it was the Shiv Sena that first inducted BJP leaders in Ambernath, sparking the competitive round of political poaching.

Chavan underscored the BJP's focus on ground-level politics, stating that the party leadership considers local body elections as important as Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. He credited the BJP's strength to its development agenda and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

His comments follow a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi earlier this week, where he briefed Shah on the political landscape and the party's organisational preparations for the civic elections. Chavan also met Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to discuss strategy and seat-sharing arrangements for municipal corporations in Mumbai, Thane, and neighbouring regions.

## HC issues notice to Saudi Arabian embassy over delay in repatriating youth's mortal remains

**JAIPUR**

The High Court has issued a notice to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Delhi, seeking an explanation for the prolonged delay in releasing the mortal remains of a Rajasthan youth, who died there on November 13, leaving his family devastated.

Intervening in the matter, the Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur issued a notice to the Saudi Arabian government, after the body of Ramesh Kumar Meghwal, a resident of Balotra district, remained undispatched even after 28 days of his death.

Justice Nupur Bhati sought a response from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through its Embassy in New Delhi, following a petition filed by the deceased's mother, Teeju Bai.

Legal experts consider this a significant judicial step, as issuing a notice to a foreign government in a humanitarian matter is rare.

The next hearing is scheduled for December 17, where both the Saudi and Indian governments will present their positions.

Ramesh Kumar Meghwal, a resident of Meghwalon Ki Dhani in Gida tehsil, died under suspicious circumstances in Saudi Arabia on November 13.

When his body was not sent back for several weeks, Charmesh Sharma, former Director of the Rajasthan Seeds Corporation and known for aiding Indians in distress abroad, filed complaints with the President's Secretariat, the National Human Rights Commission, and the Ministry of External Affairs. The President's Secretariat directed the Ministry of External Affairs to take necessary action, and the ministry subsequently responded to Sharma.

NUPI LAL TRIBUTE

## *President Murmu Pays Tribute on 86th Nupi Lal Day in Manipur*

**IMPHAL**

President Droupadi Murmu, currently on a two-day visit to Manipur, paid floral tributes at the Nupi Lal Memorial Complex in Imphal on Friday to mark the 86th Nupi Lal Day. The day commemorates two historic women-led uprisings against British policies in 1904 and 1939, movements that remain significant milestones in the state's socio-political history.

The President also visited the Shree Govindaji Temple at the Palace Compound, located about two kilometres from the memorial site, where she offered prayers. An official accompanying the visit said President Murmu's tribute was a heartfelt homage to the brave women of Manipur whose courage and resilience continue to inspire generations.

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who joined the President at the memorial, also offered floral tributes. In his message to the people of Manipur, the Governor described Nupi Lal Day—popularly known as Nupilan Numit—as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary unity and patriotism shown by Manipuri women. He highlighted that the Nupi Lal movements stood not just as protests but as powerful expressions of collective leadership and social awareness.

The brave mothers of Manipur transformed their pain into courage that culminated in a movement that continues to inspire generations. Their sacrifices remind us that the progress of any society lies in respecting and empowering its women, Bhalla said.

The Governor called upon citizens to uphold the spirit of Nupi Lal and work towards fostering peace, harmony and progress in the state.

Following the tribute ceremony, President Murmu departed Imphal for Senapati district, a Naga tribal-inhabited region, where she is scheduled to address a public function and inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several developmental projects. This marks her first visit to Manipur since assuming office, and it comes at a time when the state continues to recover from ethnic violence.

## QUICK READ

### Congress criticises Trinamool MP for vaping e-cigarette in Parliament

**New Delhi**

Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy has come under criticism after a video surfaced showing him smoking an e-cigarette on the Parliament premises. While the Congress on Friday termed the act inappropriate, the Samajwadi Party (SP) defended the veteran leader, saying he had not violated any parliamentary norms. Speaking to reporters, Congress MP Imran Masood said, This is wrong. If he is smoking in Parliament, it is not appropriate. However, SP MP Virendra Singh told IANS, Saugata Roy is a senior MP with several terms.

### Making MP Naxal-free, Ken-Betwa big achievements

**Bhopal**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Friday asserted that overcoming the Naxal problem and bringing the Ken-Betwa river linking project out of the drawing board was the biggest achievement of his government in the past two years. He said his government has accelerated development across the state while strengthening law and order during its two year tenure. He also said that curbing corruption was the prime agenda of his government and, within two years, the administration has contained it to a considerable extent. Speaking to the media here, Dr Yadav said the rapid pace of progress was possible under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

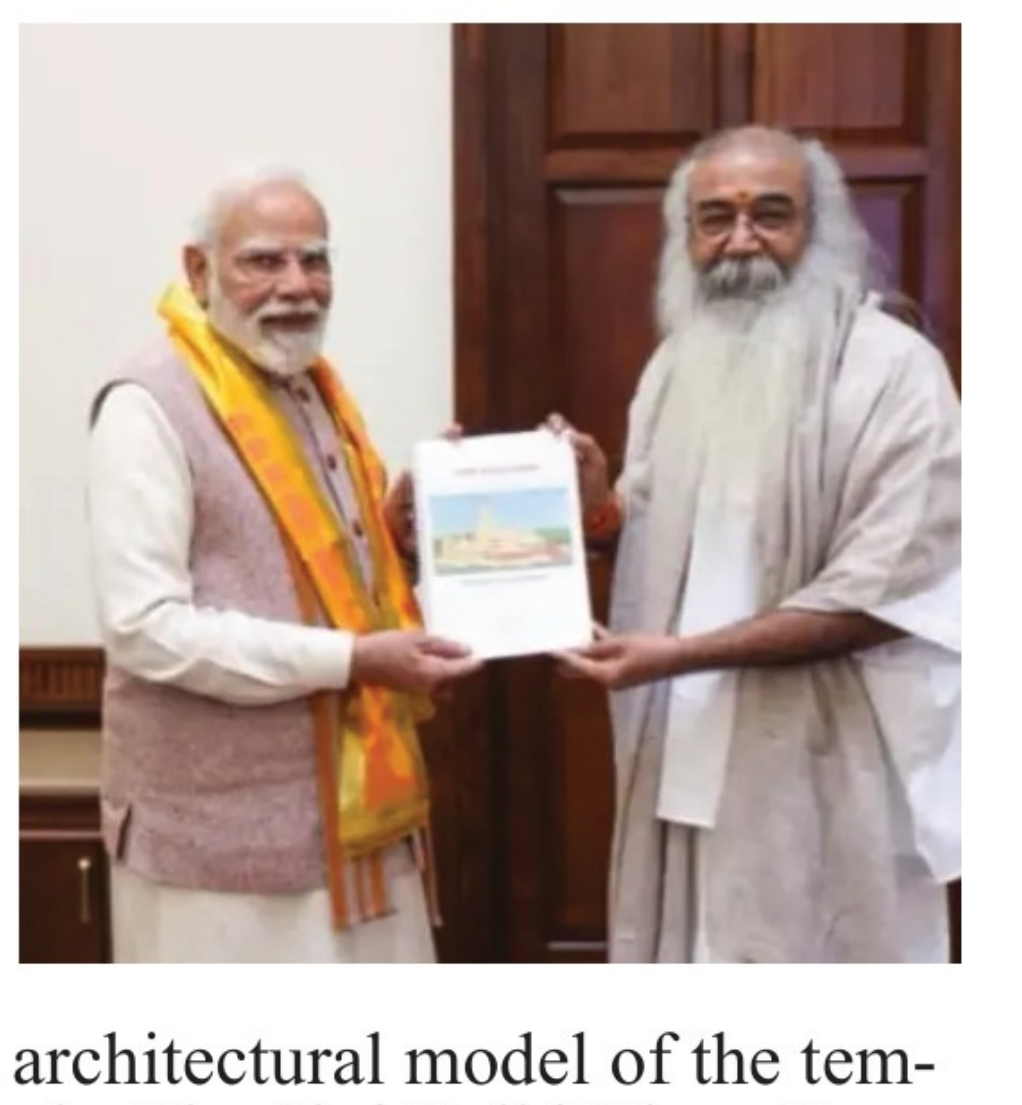
# PM Modi reviews Shri Kalki Dham construction with Acharya Pramod

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Acharya Pramod Krishnam to review progress of Shri Kalki Dham construction in Uttar Pradesh

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met spiritual leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam in his Parliament chamber, where the latter presented a detailed progress report on the construction of Shri Kalki Dham in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district. Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who heads the Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust overseeing the project, also offered the Prime Minister an ang-vastram and prasad.

In a message shared on social media, the spiritual leader expressed gratitude for the meeting, writing, Today, in the PM Chamber of the Indian Parliament, we had the fortune of presenting to the illustrious and honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri @narendramodiji, the progress report of the construction of Shri Kalki Dham, along with the prasad of the world's first 'Kalki Katha' and an ang-vastram of Shri Kalki Dham.



The meeting comes nearly a year after PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the Shri Kalki Dham Temple on February 19 in Sambhal district. During the foundation ceremony, he had also unveiled the architectural model of the temple. The Shri Kalki Dham Temple is dedicated to the future Kalki Avatar of Lord Vishnu and is envisioned as an important centre of spiritual and cultural reverence.

Addressing the gathering during the foundation event, the Prime Minister had said that the land of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna was once again witnessing a surge of devotion and spiritual awakening. He described the laying of the foundation stone as a moment of deep honour and expressed confidence that Shri Kalki Dham would emerge as a significant spiritual landmark for the nation. The upcoming temple will feature ten garbh grihas representing the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu.

## Indian army restores communication links in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka

**NEW DELHI**

As part of Operation Sagar Bandhu, launched to provide humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka following Cyclone Ditwah, an Engineer Task Force of the Indian Army was airlifted to provide critical engineering support. The 48-member team focuses on restoring vital communication links, including repairing and constructing damaged roads and bridges. It includes bridging experts, surveyors, watermanship specialists, and personnel skilled in operating heavy earth-moving equipment, drones, and unmanned systems, ensuring precise and effective engineering work.

The task force holds four sets of modular Bailey bridges, airlifted by IAF C-17 aircraft, to restore connectivity. It is also equipped with pneumatic boats, outboard motors, HESCO bags, heavy-payload drones, and remotely controlled boats. Fully operational, the team can undertake rescue operations and build essential infrastructure such as shelters, roads, and bridges. In coordination with the Sri Lanka Army and the Road Development Authority, reconnaissance has been conducted at multiple bridge sites, including the Kilinochchi Bridge, where a Bailey bridge will be installed to restore connectivity.

## Assam Becomes First State to Launch Measurement Control Unit for Scientific Policing

**GUWAHATI**

Assam has positioned itself at the cutting edge of scientific policing in India, becoming the first state to operationalise the Measurement Control Unit (MCU), a technological system designed to enhance criminal tracking and streamline forensic-driven investigations.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the launch marks a major milestone in the state's mission to modernise policing and strengthen justice delivery. In a post on X, he announced that Assam Police now leads the nation in scientific policing, citing the MCU's advanced capabilities in DNA, retina and biometric capture.

The newly deployed technology enables instant identification of repeat offenders across states, drastically reducing verification time and improving the detection of interstate criminal activity. According to a senior police official, the MCU integrates multiple identification databases into a unified platform, allowing law enforcement agencies to analyse criminal histories with unprecedented speed and precision.

The system is expected to significantly aid investigations related to habitual offenders, organised crime networks and cases involving movement across state borders. Officials believe the MCU will play a pivotal role in closing investigative gaps and ensuring more effective law enforcement responses.

Chief Minister Sarma said the initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to leveraging scientific tools for public safety. When science strengthens the law, crime has nowhere to hide, he wrote, stressing that the MCU is reshaping frontline policing in Assam. Over recent years, Assam Police have undertaken a series of reforms to build technical capacity, including upgrading forensic infrastructure, expanding digital crime monitoring and conducting statewide training programmes to familiarise personnel with new technologies.

### Maharashtra will establish UMED Malls across ten districts, creating permanent marketplaces for women's Self-Help Group products year-round

# Maharashtra to build UMED malls in 10 districts, supports women's SHGs

**NAGPUR**

Maharashtra Rural Development Minister Jaykumar Gore on Friday announced in the Assembly that the state government will construct UMED Malls in 10 districts during the first phase of a major initiative aimed at strengthening women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The project seeks to provide a permanent, year-round marketplace for SHG-made products, ensuring stable income and wider reach for women entrepreneurs.

Responding to a question in the House, Minister Gore confirmed that the Cabinet has approved the UMED Mall concept and allocated ₹200 crore for its rollout. Each District Sales Centre, or UMED Mall, will have a minimum built-up area of 20,000 sq ft, offering dedicated spaces for the display and sale of SHG products.

He further stated that while exhibitions such as Mahalakshmi Saras, District Saras, and Mini Saras offer good marketing opportunities, they remain temporary in nature. The UMED Malls, however, will provide a permanent retail platform throughout the year. The government is also exploring the possibility of expanding the initiative to the Taluka level in the next phases.

Addressing concerns raised in the House, Minister Gore assured that the UMED campaign will continue beyond 2026 and will not be discontinued. He also responded to demands raised by Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and contractual staff working under the mission. The demand to designate Community Resource Persons (CRPs) as 'Gram Sakhi' has been accepted, and a Government Resolution on this will be issued today, he said.

Minister Gore added that the government has approved providing uniforms for employees, with the design to be selected by the staff and sanctioned by the administration.

Regarding requests for permanent employment of UMED staff, he clarified that such a move is not feasible in Maharashtra since no other state follows this model.

# No Significant Rise in Deaths of Indians Abroad; 54,511 Mortal Remains Repatriated Since 2016: MEA

**NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday informed Parliament that the government has not observed any significant increase in the number of deaths of Indian nationals living or working abroad. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated that a total of 54,511 mortal remains of Indian citizens have been brought back to the country between 2016 and 2025.

According to official data submitted to the House, the number of mortal remains repatriated each year stood at 4,167 in 2016; 4,222 in 2017; 4,205 in 2018; 5,291 in 2019; 5,321 in 2020; 5,834 in 2021; 5,946 in 2022; 6,532 in 2023; 7,096 in 2024; and 5,897 in 2025 (up to October).

Responding to concerns raised about delays and challenges in the repatriation process, the MEA clarified that Indian Missions abroad follow a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to assist bereaved families. This includes coordination with local authorities, completing formalities in accordance with host-country laws, and ensuring the timely transportation of mortal remains.

The ministry noted that no fixed timeline can be prescribed for repatriation, as the duration depends on various factors such as the cause of death, legal and procedural requirements in the foreign country, documentation issues, and the availability of next of kin to provide consent. While natural deaths usually take between three and 14 days to process, cases involving unnatural deaths tend to face longer delays due to police investigations, autopsies or identity verification. DNA profiling has also been required in some cases.

The government outlined several challenges commonly faced by families, including high transportation costs, delays in obtaining police or medical reports, and confusion around necessary documentation.

To ease the burden, the MEA has instructed all Missions to prioritise repatriation cases and issue No Objection Certificates (NOC) even on holidays. Dedicated 24/7 consular helplines are in place to provide immediate assistance.

## ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು)
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.bengaluru.urban.dudc@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22211372/352

ಸಂ: ಜಿನಕೋ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ ಹಂತ-01/01/25-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12/12/2025

### ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಅಮೃತ್ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ ಹಂತ 4.0 ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೊಹರಾದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. | ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ವರ್ಗ |
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| 1 | DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT52216 | 318.23 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 2 | DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT49389/CALL-2 | 146.71 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 3 | DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT52693 | 121.11 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 4 | DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT52628 | 180.00 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |

(1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ / ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4433/
ಸ್ಪಾನ್/2025-26

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, **H B ANIL S/o Sri. H S Balaram,** Aged about 44 Years, Occ. Agriculture, Residing at Hossur Village & Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District. I have changed my name from **ANIL H B** to **ANIL H B SHASTRY** for all the purposes. Sowrn before Muniswamy Reddy, Advocate & Notary Vide affidavit Date: 03/05/2025.

**IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR**
**Cri. Mis 1071/2025**

**BETWEEN: Smt.Madhumala.D.** W/o S.S Rajendra Aged about 57 years #38,Car street,8th ward, Doddaballapura Bangalore Rural District
......... **Petitioner**

**AND The Commissioner, CMC,Doddaballapura**
........**Respondent**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his grandfather by name late KL Gurushankaraiah S/o K.V.Lakshminarayanaiah who died on 13.10.1965 at #2771, Hemavathipet, Doddaballapur,Bangalore Rural District. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorised before the above said Court on at 11am.In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. 17.01.2026.

Given under my hand and Seal of the court on the 12.12.2025.

**By order of the court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR**
Advocate: **Jalajakshi.K,** Besides Vijayashree TVS Show room Taluk Office Road, Doddaballapur Town-561203
Date: 12.12.2025

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

## J&K L-G pays tribute to legendary warrior Zorawar Singh

**JAMMU**

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tribute to the legendary Dogra warrior Late General Zorawar Singh for his courage, purpose and commitment to bigger ideals on his 184th death anniversary. His vision inspired generations by igniting passion, guiding people toward a shared vision, courage, purpose & commitment to bigger ideals. We must follow his message for moral clarity, unwavering conviction to shape the better future & empower the marginalised.

**MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED**
**FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD**
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
**Regd Office:** IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
**Corp Office:** Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
**Phone No.:** 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

## DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

| Sr. No. | Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch | Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created | Npa Date | Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rajavali H, Muktumbi R, Devendrappa, **/NHL01170047024/** Raichur | Property Panchayath No. 144/3/1, E Property No. 152000101800120091, Measuring Totally 34.84 Sq Meter, Village: Eliganoor, Gp: Ulenoor, Tq: Karatagi, Dist: Koppal, Karnataka, Pin:583229. East-Road, West-Road & House of Doulabi, South-House of Vallisab, North-Remaining Land | 05-11-2025 | 15-11-2025 & Rs.389824/- |
| 2 | Shivamma B, Lennet Jashmin J, Arun Kumar R, Raju R, Chandramohan R, **/MA90MHLONS 000005007935/** Mysore | Assessment No. 2585, Site No. 35, P.I.D. No. 37-511-407/1, Ward No. 22, Near Hosa Kurubara Beedi, Kolegala Town, Measuring East To West 8.68 Meters And North To South 7.62 Meters, Chamarajangar, Karnataka, Pin: 571440. East-Property of Chandramohan R And Priyadarshini & Passage, West-Main Road, South-Property Bearing P.I.D. No. 37-511-409, North-Property Bearing P.I.D. No. 37-511-405 | 05-11-2025 | 15-11-2025 & Rs.207468/- |
| 3 | Nagarathna K, Ranjan K, Kemparaju M, Rakshith K, **/MHL00900017797/** Vivekananda Circle | House No. 37, 20th Cross, 2nd Main Jayanagara, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka, Pin: 570014 Admeasuring East To West 30.00 Feet North To South 10.00 Feet. East-Site No. 38, West-Road, South-Property Belongs To M Mahadevu, North-Sit No. 36 | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.470141/- |
| 4 | B H Harish, Sangita T P, T Hanumappa, Ramanjamma H, **/NHL00510017460/** Shimoga | Property No. 7-2-19-52A, Old Property No. 808/94CC -04/18-19, Assessment No. 808/94Cc-04/18-19, Measuring Total 55.7418 Sq. Meter, Ward No: 7, #52A Jai Bheem Nagar Bhadravthi, Bhadravathi Taluk Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577301. East-House of Ganesha, West-House of Mahadevamma, South-Nirmala Hospital Compound, North-Road | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.416319/- |
| 5 | Prakasha H, Manjula P, Nagaraj B, **/NHL00510026521/** Shimoga | Property No: 53/1, E-Property No. 152400401200400008, Measuring Total 111.54 Sq. Meter, Mallapura Village, Mudubasiddapira Grama Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin:577214. East-House of Devendrappa, West-House of Kotrappa, South-Road, North-Survey Number Land | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.482461/- |
| 6 | Santosh Yashavant Mahar, Kareppa Yashavnt Mahar, Durgavva Yashavant Mahar, **/NLAP0098030453/** Belgaum | GP No. 147/1, RDPR P.I.D. 150400303100300222, Shaganamatti Village, Mastamardi Gram Panchayat, Tq & Dist Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin:590003 Admeasuring 46.47 Square Meters. East-Road, West-Property of Ningappa Patil, South-Property of Ningappa Patil, North-Property of Yallappa Mahar | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.462018/- |
| 7 | Ravi K, Shruthi K, Karthik R, Kamalamma, **/NLAP0051033565/** Shimoga | Property No. 35-502-718, Assessment No. 2749/2749/2513, Old Property No. 2749/2749/2513, Measuring Total 54 Sq. Meter, Ward No 20, #718, 1St "A" Main Road, Kanuru Ashreya Badavane, 35,20, Shikaripura, Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property of Sit No. 131, West-Purasabha Road, South-Property of Sit No.109, North-Property of Sit No.111 | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.503383/- |
| 8 | Mubina Banu, Jafar Sadiq, Noorulla M, **/MLAP0051041133/** Shimoga | Property No: 35-510-73, Property Old No. 2750/2750/2514, Assessment No. 2750/2750/2514, Measuring Total 54 Sq. Meter Including 33.45 Sq. Meter Building, Ward No. 20, 1st A Main Road, Kanuru Ashraya Badavane, Shikaripura Town, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property of Site No. 127, West-Purasabha Road, South-Property of Site No. 115, North-Property of Site No. 113 | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.417984/- |
| 9 | Lakshmi S, Rangappa Lohith, **/MHL00480043443/** Davangare | Property No. 1083/957, E Swattu No. 151200105600101035, Measuring 111.48 Sq. Mtrs, Hodigere Grama, Hodigere Grama Panchayathi, Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere District, Karnataka, Pin:577215. East Vacant Land of Gururaghavendra S/O Sankappa, West-PWD Road, South-Vacant Land of Omprakash S/O Siddalingappa, North-Gp Road | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.536459/- |
| 10 | Shahirabanu Akbarsab Nayak, Akbarsab Saiyadsab Nayak, Biyanabi Saiyadsab Nayak, Farida Mehaboobsab Golalli, **/MHL00260044117/** Hubli | Residential Property Vpc No. 29/A, Property No. 151300300100520048, Measuring Total 167.23 Sq Mtr, Building Measuring 69.68 Sq Mtr, Junjanbail Village, Tq: Kalghatagi, Dist: Dharawad, Karnataka, Pin: 581204. East-Property of Allasab Bammigatti, West-Property of Hajaratbi Gollalli, South-Property of Hajaratbi Gollalli, North-Govt. Road | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.650602/- |
| 11 | H D Durugappa, Nagaraja, H D Gangamma, H D Pushpa, H D Jyothi, **/NHL00480045950/** Davangare | Item No. 1: Property No. 07/22, E Swathu No. 151200400700100886, Measuring 33.17 Sq Mts, Chigateri Grama, Chigateri Grama Panchyath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagar Dis, Item No. 2: Property No. 07/177, E Swathu No. 151200400700120381, Measuring 34.110000 Sq Mts., Chigateri Grama, Chigateri Grama Panchyath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagar Dis, Karnataka, Pin: 583127. East-Item No. 1: House of Hd Nagraj/Item No. 2: Road, West-Item No. 1: House of Hd Hanumantha/Item No. 2: Property of Hucha Goneyappa, South-Item No. 1: Road/Item No. 2:Road/ Property of Channappa, North-Item No. 1: Road/Item No. 2: Road | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.568353/- |
| 12 | Manjunatha B H, Thimmakka Hattithimmanna, Hatti Thimmanna, **/NHL00930048166/** Tumkur | Old Katha No. 45, Katha No. 152500700601300060, E Khatha No. 152500700601300060 Measuring East To West 10.05 Meters And North To South 8.53 Meters, Bevinahalli Village, Gowdagere Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 572135. East-Road & Site of Kavitha, West-House of Nagaraju, South-House of Lakshmidevi, North-House of Manjamma | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.487185/- |
| 13 | Jayaprakash, Rathnamma, Devaraja S K, **/NLAP0143049402/** Nelamangala | Katha No. 137/1, E Katha No.152500700300600131, Measuring Total 53.510000 Sq Meters, Chikkahulikunte Village And Hulikunte Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 572113. East-Cc Road, West-House of Jayarangappa, South-Site of Rangamma, North-CC Road | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.478499/- |
| 14 | Hanumanthappa B, Kanumakka, Bhimayya, **/MLAP0130051022/** Chitradurga | Property E Swathu Khata No. 240/235, E-Property No.151000303200800240, Measuring Total 132.672000 Sq. Mtr, Built Up Area 87.68000 Dasannanamalege Village, Imangala Grama Panchayat, Hiriyur (Tq) Chitradurga (Dist), Karnataka, Pin: 577558. East-House of Thimmaiah Bodi, West-House of Kanumappa, South-CC Road, North-House of Manjappa | 13-11-2025 | 17-11-2025 & Rs.556719/- |
| 15 | Hemalatha Bai, Jaya Naik, **/MHL00480004559/** Davangare | Property No.192, E Swathu No. 151200402800220058, Measuring 186.3 Sq Mts., Ragimasalwada Village, Ragimasalwada Grama Panchayath, Harapanahalli, Vijayanagara, Davanagare, Karnataka, Pin: 583137. East-Jaya Naik Toilet, West-Road, South-Nagibai W/O Tejya Naik Home, North-Nagibai W/O Nagya Naik Home | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.265460/- |
| 16 | Jayamma P, Ningashetty M, Sundramma M, **/MHL00340013416/** Mysore | Property No.556/1, P.I.D. No.150800200100121788, Beguru Village & GP, Gundulpete Taluk, Chamarajanagara, Karnataka, Pin: 571109 Measuring 54.84 Square Meters. East-House Belongs To Puttashetty, West House Belongs To Dasashetty, South-Pathway, North-House Belongs To Mahadevashetty | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.111579/- |
| 17 | Nethravathi C N, S Ramesha Nayika, Samya Naika, **/MLAP0051037295/** Shimoga | Rdpr Katha No: 150900203200100452, Property No: 168 & Survey No. 91/*/4, 91/*/5, Measuring Total 111.41 Sq. Meter, Inbuilt Area Measuring 53.94 Sq. Meter House Uppinahalli Village, Niduvalli Grama Panchayath, Kaduru Taluk, Chikkamanguluru Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577182. East-Site No. 46, West-Rajanaik, South-Survey No., North-Road | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.302968/- |
| 18 | Pushpamma, Vinayakumara K, **/MLAP0051037991/** Shimoga | Rdpr Katha No: 151200105800200647, Property No: 350, Measuring In Total 145.67 Sq. Meter, Inbuilt Area 102.19 Sq. Meter, Hosakere, Basavapattna Gram Panchayat, Channgiri Taluk, Davangere Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577551. East-Srgvp Compound, West-Panchayat Road, South-Property Belongs To Manjappa S/O Shivappa, North-Property Belongs To Cheeluru Rudrappa | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.289917/- |
| 19 | Renukamma N H, Rangappa R, **/MLAP0130043461/** Chitradurga | Property Khata No. 1021, E Swathu No. 151000301700620026, Measuring Total 125.31 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area 125.31, Thalavarahatti Grama, Vanivilasapura Grama Panchayath, Hiriyuru Taluk, Chitrdurga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577598. East-Vacant Place of Manjapa, West-Vacant Place, South-Road, North-Vacant Place of Thimmaraju | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.314260/- |
| 20 | Nagamma, Manjunatha, Lakshmi H P, **/MLAP0090044207/** Vivekananda Circle | Property No 394, P.I.D. No. 152200100807320237, Matakere Village, Hyrige Gramapanchayat, Hd Kote Block And Mysore District, Karnataka, Pin: 571114 Admeasuring 105.91 Sq Mts. East-House of Ashwatha Shetty, West-Public Road, South-House of Siddanayaka, North-Public Road | 13-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.281579/- |
| 21 | Gayathri D, Ravi C R, Rajanayaka C, Deepika M, **/MHL00340014462/** Mysore | Property No.188, P.I.D. No.152200401149000250, Amachavadi Village & Gungral Chathra GP, Mysore Taluk & District, Karnataka, Pin: 571130 Measuring Totally 301.01 Square Meters. East-Survey Number Place Belongs To Rajanayaka & P. Swamy S/O Puttanayaka, West-Conservancy & Property Belongs To Kalanayaka & Chowdanayaka, South-Survey Number Place, North-Road | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.511687/- |
| 22 | Manja Naik, Sheela Bayi, Manoj Kumar M, **/NHL00510023290/** Shimoga | Property No: 70/1, E Property No. 152400401000120196, Measuring Total 108.51 Sq. Meter, Including 81.75 Sq. Meter House, Saluru Village, Saluru Gram Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577214. East-Property of Krishna Naika, West Property of Geethi Bai W/O Shekhara Naika, South-Conservancy Road, North-VP Road | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.669068/- |
| 23 | Naheem Pasha S, Sayed Ahmad S, Rubina Banu S, **/NHL00510030361/** Shimoga | Property 19/1, E Property No. 152400501900400034, Measuring Total 62.71 Sq. Meter, Lakkinakoppa Grama, Koralahalli Grama Panchayat, Shimoga Taluk, Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577222. East-House of Fathima Bi, West-House of Banni Janu, South-House of Abbaukaka, North-Village Panchayath Road | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.460533/- |
| 24 | Chavali Bai, Ramesha Naik, Manjula Bai, **/MLAP0144034429/** Shikaripura | Property No. 189, E Property No. 152400402500100475, Measuring Total 167.23 Sq. Meter, Including 67.91 Sq. Meter Building, Ambaragoppa Grama, Ambaragoppa Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Tq, Shivamoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property of Chowvali Lachma Naik, West-Property of Lachi Bai Madhu Naik, South-Road, North-Road | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.447646/- |
| 25 | Chandrappa Rangappa, Pradeep Kumar K C, Shanthamma Chandrappa, **/NHL00510035823/** Shimoga | Property No. 140/1, E Property No. 152400100800420225, Measuring Total 139.35 Sq. Meter, Saidarakallahalli Grama, Saidarakallahalli Grama Panchayat, Bhadravathi Taluk Shimoga Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577243. East-Road, West-Road, South-Property of Basamma, North-Property of Shanthamma | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.557882/- |
| 26 | Venkatarathnamma, Raghavendra N, **/MLAP0090040133/** Vivekananda Circle | Property No. 45/45, P.I.D. No. 152200101605120053, H D Kote Rural Grama, Savve Gram Panchayat, Heggadadevanakote Block And Mysuru District, Admeasuring 232.26 Sq Mts Site 69.68 of Building In Karnataka, Pin: 571114. East-House of Nagarathnamma, West-Road, South-Road, North-House of Nagegowda | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.517737/- |
| 27 | Laxmi Govinda Harijan, Govind Basavanth Harijan, Ishwara Chennappa Bavakara, **/MHL00260043271/** Hubli | Gramthana Property Vpc No. 320, Property No. 152700300400100496, Total Measuring 120.17 Sq. Mtr. And Building Measuring 111.63 Sq. Mtr., Kavalawad Village, Tq: Haliyal Dist: Uttar Kannada, Karnataka, Pin: 581329. East-Open Property, West-Haliyal - Kalaghatagi Main Road, South-Road Towards Matangi Temple, North-Property Of Savitri Kareppa Harijan | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.536968/- |
| 28 | Mohammed Rafi, Haseena Banu, Jafar Sadiq, **/NLAP0093051587/** Tumkur | Gram Panchayath Khata No. 920, (Old Khata No. 920/146), E Khata No. 152500703300101190, Total Measuring 83.6127 Sq. Mtrs., Bukkapattana Village, Bukkapattana Gram Panchayth, Bukkapattana Hobli, Sira Taluk And Tumkur Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 572115 East-Site No. 145, West-Site No. 147, South-Panchayath Road, North-Site No. 129 | 14-11-2025 | 18-11-2025 & Rs.559020/- |

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

**Date: 13th December 2025 | Place: KARNATAKA Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

## QUICK READ

### UNESCO recognizes India's Diwali for global intangible heritage

**Washington**
The Indian Consulate in Houston celebrated Diwali's recognition on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The event, held with BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Indo-American groups, featured lamp-lighting, cultural performances, and a light show, with participation from local diaspora and officials. Indian Consulates in Atlanta, Chile, and Lebanon also marked the occasion with diyas, lights, and prayers. Consul General D.C. Manjunath highlighted Diwali's message of light, harmony, and goodwill.

### Malaysia drops appeal against Rosmah Mansor

**Kuala Lumpur**
Malaysian prosecutors have withdrawn their appeal against Rosmah Mansor, wife of former Prime Minister Najib Razak, after her acquittal in 12 money laundering and five tax evasion charges. The Attorney-General's Chambers cited the death of key witnesses, making conviction unlikely. Rosmah, known for her lavish lifestyle, has maintained her innocence throughout. The decision does not affect her other ongoing trials, including a 10-year bribery sentence linked to a solar project. Najib, serving a six-year jail term for graft, faces further 1MDB-related verdicts later this month. Both continue to deny wrongdoing in multiple corruption investigations.

### DUCSU leader allegedly attacks Dhaka University teachers

**Dhaka**
Three Dhaka University teachers linked to the pro-Awami League panel "Neel Dal" were reportedly attacked by students led by DUCSU leader AB Zubair. The incident occurred after the teachers submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor, demanding the reinstatement of barred faculty members. Videos show Zubair confronting the teachers and blocking their exit. Professors reported harassment, including snatched belongings and physical intimidation. The Dhaka University Teachers' Association condemned the attack and called for an impartial investigation.

# Russia strikes energy facilities in Odesa region

Russia has intensified attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, targeting power stations and railways, worsening conditions for communities

**KYIV**

Russia launched an overnight attack on energy facilities in Ukraine's southern Odesa region, leaving thousands without electricity and sparking fires, officials said on Friday. The attacks, carried out using drones, hit areas where Ukraine's main seaports are located, according to Governor Oleh Kiper.

Several settlements were affected as power lines and stations were damaged. "Many communities are now without electricity," Kiper wrote on Telegram, urging calm while emergency crews worked to restore service.

Ukraine's largest energy company, DTEK, reported that one of its substations was hit, along with another facility owned by a different company. The company said it managed to restore electricity to 40,000 households, but nearly 90,000 customers still remained in the dark.

In recent weeks, Russia has stepped up attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, especially as winter intensifies. Power stations and railway hubs have frequently been targeted, adding pressure on communities already struggling amid the conflict.

Earlier this week, the Ukrainian government approved measures to save electricity after repeated attacks left entire regions without power. Officials emphasized that residents should remain prepared for temporary outages while restoration work continues.

The attacks mark another worrying escalation as the war nears its fourth anniversary. Local authorities and energy companies continue to work around the clock to bring back electricity, repair damaged infrastructure, and keep critical services running during the challenging winter months.

## Ireland plans limited trade ban on Israeli settlements

**DUBLIN**

Ireland is preparing a law to restrict trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, but the measure will be narrowly limited to goods, the Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence, Thomas Byrne, told Reuters on Thursday. He emphasized that the legislation would not target services and would not come into effect this year.

The move comes amid pressure from both domestic and international actors. Some lawmakers in Ireland have called for a broader ban covering services, while Israel and the United States have urged Dublin to drop the legislation entirely. Byrne described the bill as "extremely limited," noting it would apply only to imports from illegally-occupied territories, including certain agricultural products like dried fruit. Annual trade impacted by the bill is estimated at just 200,000 euros ($234,660).

The bill, originally proposed by lawmaker Frances Black, could serve as a model for similar measures in other European countries. Black said she plans to continue pushing for a wider ban on services in the future. Ireland has long been one of the European Union's most vocal critics of Israeli military actions in Gaza, where Palestinian authorities report more than 67,000 deaths.

*Following two recent defections, Conservative leader Poilievre faces increased pressure ahead of his January leadership review post-election*

## CANADIAN LIBERALS NEAR MAJORITY AFTER DEFECTION

**OTTAWA**

equal voice
à voix égales

Canada's Liberal government, led by Prime Minister Mark Carney, is now just one seat shy of a parliamentary majority following the defection of Conservative MP Michael Ma. Ma, elected in April to represent Markham–Unionville in the Greater Toronto Area, formally joined the Liberals, citing the need for "unity and decisive action" for Canada's future.

Ma's move brings the Liberal Party's total to 171 seats in the 543-member House of Commons, edging closer to the 172-seat majority threshold. He was welcomed warmly by Carney during the Liberal caucus holiday gathering in Ottawa. This is the second recent Conservative defection.

In early November, Chris d'Entremont from Nova Scotia also joined the Liberals, citing disagreement with Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's policies. The defections have intensified pressure on Poilievre, whose leadership is slated for review in January following the party's defeat in the April federal election.

Recent polling by the Angus Reid Institute indicates growing dissatisfaction with Poilievre, with 58 percent of respondents believing he should be replaced, including 64 percent of centrists and 63 percent who view his leadership unfavorably. Even among recent Conservative voters, support for Poilievre's continuation has slipped to 58 percent, down 10 points since August.

Ma's defection comes amid speculation about the government's stability. While minority governments in Canada average 18 months, the Liberal Party's near-majority position could allow Carney's administration to serve a full four-year term if additional defections occur. Analysts predict that the upcoming months may see further political realignments in the House as parties prepare for future elections.

## Awami League rejects B'desh election schedule

**DHAKA**

**The Election Commission announced on Thursday evening that the 13th national parliamentary election and the July Charter referendum will take place on February 12 next year**

Bangladesh's Awami League party has strongly rejected the election schedule announced by the country's Election Commission, saying fair and free polls are impossible under the current interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The Election Commission announced on Thursday evening that the 13th national parliamentary election and the July Charter referendum will take place on February 12 next year. The Awami League, however, called the commission "illegal" and accused it of being controlled by the Yunus government.

In a statement, the party said it is clear that the current authorities are biased, making it impossible to hold elections that reflect the will of the people. They accused the government of trying to exclude the Awami League and other major political groups, warning that this could push the country into a deep crisis.

The party demanded the removal of all restrictions on it, withdrawal of what it called "fabricated cases" against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other leaders, and the release of all political prisoners. They also called for a neutral caretaker government to ensure a free and fair election.

The Awami League emphasized that elections are a measure of public support, noting that it has contested 13 elections since its founding and won nine, forming the government. The party made clear that it will not accept the announced schedule, which it says ignores the majority of Bangladesh's citizens.

## White House warns against Mayor-elect video

**WASHINGTON**

The White House sharply criticised a video posted by New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, urging immigrants to "stand up to ICE," warning it has fueled a surge in attacks on federal immigration officers. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration is "definitely concerned about the rise in violence and attacks and physical threats" targeting ICE personnel.

Leavitt cited what she described as more than a 1,000 per cent increase in violent incidents against agents and their families. "ICE officers have been doxed, harassed, and physically assaulted while enforcing our nation's immigration laws," she said, stressing that the administration condemns any messaging that encourages resistance to federal enforcement.

President Trump has touted the US border as the "most secure" in history, pointing to record-low encounters with illegal entrants.

## Baloch activist urges Trump halt Pakistan aid

**QUETTA**

Mir Yar Baloch, a prominent Baloch human rights activist, has appealed to former US President Donald Trump to cancel the recently approved $686 million military aid to Pakistan. The activist warned that the funds could be used against innocent Baloch civilians and worsen human rights abuses in the region.

In his urgent letter, Mir highlighted that the Baloch people have suffered under seventy-seven years of Pakistani control, marked by enforced disappearances and violence, often using weapons supplied by the United States. He urged the US to revoke the F-16 upgrade program and other military assistance, calling them tools of oppression rather than defense.

Mir pointed out Pakistan's past actions, including harboring Osama bin Laden while receiving US funds, and alleged that billions meant for counterterrorism were misused to target American forces. "Now, the same regime is receiving new American weapons aimed at harming Baloch families," he said.

He also recalled a 2012 US Congressional hearing titled "The Crisis in Balochistan," where lawmakers condemned Pakistan for human rights violations and recognized the Baloch people's right to independence. The hearing stressed that US weapons were being used against civilians in the region.

Urging decisive action, Mir called on Trump to immediately suspend and permanently cancel the F-16 sustainment and all pending military financing until an independent review confirms the funds will not be used against civilians.

## South Korea plans tougher construction safety law

**SEOUL**

The South Korean government has announced plans to introduce a special law aimed at strengthening safety at construction sites and imposing stricter penalties for fatal accidents. Land Minister Kim Yun-duk revealed the initiative during a briefing for President Lee Jae Myung in Sejong, highlighting that construction-related deaths make up around 40 per cent of all industrial fatalities in the country.

Under the proposed law, safety responsibilities at construction sites will be clearly defined, and authorities will have the power to take stronger action when deadly accidents occur due to negligence or poor oversight. The safety measures will also extend to transportation infrastructure, including airports, with plans to improve aviation safety through facility upgrades and additional air traffic controllers.

The move follows a series of industrial accidents, including a recent collapse at a library construction site in Gwangju on Thursday, which killed two workers and left two missing. Rescue operations faced challenges as twisted steel and concrete trapped the missing workers, forcing authorities to halt the search temporarily to stabilize the structure. The collapse occurred while workers were pouring concrete onto the building's rooftop, causing lower floors to fall to the underground level.

President Lee has repeatedly emphasized the need for tougher measures to prevent industrial accidents since taking office in June. Meanwhile, Minister Kim also pledged to continue the government's housing plan, aiming to deliver 1.1 million public housing units, with related measures expected in early 2026. Authorities stressed that the safety law is essential to prevent future tragedies, protect workers, and ensure proper oversight in South Korea's rapidly growing construction sector.

**INDEPENDENT INQUIRY LAUNCHED**

## *Hong Kong aims to conclude fire probe quickly*

**HONG KONG**

Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said on Friday that the government aims to complete an independent investigation into the deadly fire that killed at least 160 people within nine months. The blaze, which broke out on November 26, swept through seven high-rise residential towers in the Tai Po district, displacing thousands and raising urgent questions about building safety. An independent committee, led by Judge David Lok of the Electoral Affairs Commission, has been tasked with examining the causes of the tragedy. The inquiry will focus on whether systemic issues exist in the construction industry, including conflicts of interest, collusion, or bid-rigging in awarding contracts. Lee praised the committee members for their dedication, saying, "They all have the passion and the love of Hong Kong… I take my hat off to them."

Residents have expressed anger over the fire, which took nearly two days to control. Authorities have pointed to substandard building materials used in renovations as a key factor in the fire's rapid spread. In response, the government has launched criminal and corruption investigations, signaling a broader effort to hold responsible parties accountable.

Lee also said that lawmakers and officials will work together to implement institutional reforms in the construction sector. Public petitions and calls for improved oversight have underscored the need for stronger safety regulations and government accountability. The government's swift action aims to restore confidence while ensuring that lessons are learned from the disaster.

The fire has left a lasting mark on Hong Kong, and authorities face pressure to prevent similar tragedies in the future through better safety standards, stricter regulations, and transparent investigations. The nine-month timeline is seen as a key step toward closure for affected families and residents.

## SU DO KU

### Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

**Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.**

## QUICK READ

### Meta picks new policy chief for India

**New Delhi**
Meta India has named Aman Jain as its new Head of Public Policy, marking a major step as the company prepares for growing digital and regulatory changes. Jain will begin early next year and join the India leadership team, where he will help shape Meta's public affairs strategy. He will work closely with government officials, industry groups, and civil society as online safety rules continue to change. Reporting to APAC Policy Vice President Simon Milner, Jain is expected to strengthen Meta's ties with key stakeholders and support its long-term commitment to India's digital future.

### Methodhub shares fall sharply on market debut

**Mumbai**
Methodhub Software had a shaky start on the BSE SME platform, opening at Rs 155.20, a steep 20 per cent drop from its IPO price of Rs 194. The weak debut surprised investors, especially after strong subscription numbers during the December 5–9 offering. The stock briefly hit its 5 per cent upper circuit at Rs 162.90 but stayed well below the issue price. The Rs 102.49 crore IPO, subscribed nearly 29 times, drew heavy interest from all investor groups. Methodhub plans to use the funds for debt repayment, subsidiary investment, working capital, and future acquisitions ahead.

### Disney invests $1 billion, brings characters to AI

**Bengaluru**
Walt Disney is investing $1 billion in OpenAI and licensing characters like Mickey Mouse, Cinderella, and Star Wars figures for Sora, OpenAI's AI video platform. Under a three-year deal, fans can create and share short AI-generated videos using over 200 characters from Disney, Marvel, Pixar, and Star Wars. Disney will also use OpenAI's tools, including ChatGPT, for employee productivity and new product development. CEO Bob Iger said the partnership responsibly extends storytelling through AI while protecting creators. This move marks a major shift as Hollywood cautiously explores AI's creative potential in entertainment.

# India weighs new BRICS path amid uncertainty

India navigates disputes by expanding BRICS involvement, engaging Global South, exploring new payments, and attracting global investors for manufacturing

**NEW DELHI**

A new report suggests that India may lean more heavily on BRICS and diversify its global partnerships as President Donald Trump's second term reshapes long-standing ties between New Delhi and Washington. According to the report by One World Outlook, two decades of steady India–US engagement have been disrupted, pushing India to hedge its bets and expand cooperation with Russia and the broader Global South.

The findings say India may not break from the US outright, but its caution could show through missed defence deals, slower technology collaboration, and reluctance to take risks that support Washington's strategic goals. The shift comes as American policymakers debate the consequences of President Trump's tariff-heavy approach. Democratic Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove warned that the administration is causing "long-term damage" to a key alliance, arguing that the gains built under the previous administration—through the Quad, defence tech programs and supply-chain initiatives—are being undone.

Analysts quoted in the report noted that several years of gradual progress have slipped into a cycle of disputes and political bargaining. In response, India is expanding its role within BRICS, engaging more actively with Global South platforms, and exploring alternative payment systems. It is also courting investors from Europe, Japan and the Middle East as it positions itself as a global manufacturing hub.

The report warns that New Delhi may increasingly view the US as just one partner among many, especially if economic engagement continues to be framed as pressure rather than partnership. Recently imposed US tariffs—an additional 25 percent on Indian goods—have already hit labour-intensive sectors like textiles, footwear and jewellery. Analysts also cited concerns about possible secondary sanctions tied to India's defence and energy ties with Russia, which they say fuel mistrust over India's strategic autonomy.

*SIAM's Rajesh Menon credited festive demand and GST 2.0 reforms for record November 2025 vehicle sales, optimistic for 2026*

## Passenger vehicle dispatches up 19% in November amid robust demand

**NEW DELHI**

Passenger vehicle dispatches from manufacturers to dealers rose 19% year-on-year in November, reflecting continued strong demand following the festive season, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

A total of 4,12,405 passenger vehicles were dispatched last month, up from 3,47,522 units in November 2024, marking an 18.7% increase. Market leader Maruti Suzuki India dispatched 1,70,971 units, a 21% rise from the same month last year. Mahindra & Mahindra dispatched 56,336 units, up 22%, while Hyundai Motor India shipped 50,340 units, a 4% increase.

The two-wheeler segment also saw robust growth, with dispatches increasing 21% year-on-year to 19,44,475 units, compared to 16,04,749 units last November. Scooter sales surged 29% to 7,35,753 units, while motorcycle dispatches rose 17.5% to 11,63,751 units. Moped sales, however, fell slightly by 2% to 44,971 units.

Three-wheeler dispatches climbed 21% year-on-year to 71,999 units.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon attributed the growth to festive demand and government GST 2.0 reforms, noting that passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, and three-wheelers recorded the highest-ever November sales in 2025. Menon expressed optimism that supportive policy reforms and improved market sentiment would sustain this growth trajectory into 2026.

This strong performance underscores resilience in India's automotive sector, reflecting both consumer confidence and effective industry-government collaboration.

## Rupee hits fresh low amid market jitters

**MUMBAI**

The Indian rupee slipped to yet another record low on Friday as weak global cues, rising demand for the US dollar, and continued foreign investor outflows weighed heavily on market sentiment. The currency opened at 90.43 against the dollar and soon dropped to 90.56, marking a 24-paise fall from Thursday's close.

Traders said the pressure on the rupee intensified due to uncertainty over the India–US trade deal and persistent selling by foreign institutional investors. A day earlier, the rupee had already tumbled 38 paise to end at a then-record low of 90.32, signalling a broader weakening trend.

Forex dealers noted that importers have been aggressively purchasing dollars as global prices of precious metals continue to rise. This strong demand for the US currency is adding further stress to the rupee's position.

Despite the slide, experts offered a more hopeful outlook. They said the rupee is likely to stay below 90 per dollar for the remainder of 2025 and may strengthen through 2026, potentially reaching around 86 per dollar by the end of next year. They pointed out that a weaker rupee could benefit export-driven industries like IT, pharmaceuticals and textiles, especially as some exports face pressure from high US tariffs. But they also warned that a falling rupee can increase the risk of imported inflation.

Meanwhile, global indicators showed mixed movement. The dollar index inched up to 98.37, while Brent crude traded higher at USD 61.69 per barrel. Despite currency weakness, Indian stock markets stayed positive: the Sensex climbed 170.40 points to 84,988.53, and the Nifty rose 98.40 points to 25,996.95. Foreign investors continued to withdraw funds, selling equities worth Rs 2,020.94 crore on Thursday.

## India introduces future-ready safety labour reforms

**NEW DELHI**

The Indian government has unveiled new Labour Codes aimed at providing safer and more accountable workplaces for workers in hazardous sectors, marking a major shift in workplace safety and welfare standards. Industries such as mining, petroleum, metallurgy, chemical, and heavy manufacturing, which employ large numbers of workers in high-risk conditions, are set to benefit from these reforms.

The new framework consolidates 29 central labour laws into 4 Labour Codes, with the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH&WC), 2020, at its core. This code introduces a preventive and integrated safety system, mandating risk assessments, free annual health check-ups, training, personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency planning. Employers now have clearer guidelines while workers receive stronger protections and safer conditions.

All employees in hazardous industries, including chemical, explosive, gas, radiation, mining, construction, dock, and heavy engineering sectors, are covered under OSH&WC. Health records, previously maintained manually, are now digital, portable, and accessible to workers and inspectors, ensuring transparency and long-term traceability. Mandatory pre-employment, periodic, and post-exposure medical examinations further support early detection of occupational diseases, reducing medical costs and improving workforce productivity.

Social security has also been strengthened under the Social Security Code, 2020, guaranteeing immediate compensation for workplace accidents or occupational diseases. Workers are entitled to ESIC benefits, including medical care, disability support, injury compensation, maternity benefits, provident fund, gratuity, and pension. Digital records enhance accessibility and transparency for all benefits.

# India's drone and space-tech industry set to create over 2 lakh jobs by 2033

**MUMBAI**

India's drone and space-tech industry is shifting commercially, driven by reforms, private investment, and global collaboration, creating high-demand roles with 20–30% higher wages in key cities

India's aerospace, drones, and space technology sector is poised for rapid expansion, with the industry expected to grow more than five-fold to USD 44 billion by 2033, according to a report by Adecco India. This growth is projected to generate over 2 lakh new jobs across engineering, research, data science, and business roles.

The report highlights that India's drone and space-tech industry is transitioning from a primarily research-driven domain to a full-fledged commercial industry, spurred by government reforms, private-sector participation, and international collaborations. Emerging roles such as Space Policy Analysts, Robotics Engineers, Avionics Specialists, and GNC (Guidance, Navigation, and Control) experts are expected to be in high demand.

Key growth regions include Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Pune, with niche technical roles commanding 20-30% higher wages than standard engineering positions. Government initiatives such as the Indian Space Policy 2023, a Rs 1,000 crore VC fund under IN-SPACe, and support for 250+ space startups are central to this expansion.

Diversity and inclusion are also being emphasized, with programs like WISE Fellowship, Vigyan Jyoti Programme, ISRO Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA), and SAMRIDH encouraging more women to enter technical fields, research, and entrepreneurship.

Future milestones, including the Gaganyaan mission, India's participation in the Axiom-4 ISS program, and development of a national space station, are expected to further accelerate demand for talent. Currently contributing around 2% to the global space economy, India aims to capture 7–8% of the global market by 2033, including USD 11 billion in exports, positioning itself as a leading global space hub.

This boom underscores India's strategic push to become a global space leader while generating significant employment opportunities in high-tech domains.

## India's life insurance sees strong Nov growth

**NEW DELHI**

Life Insurance

India's life-insurance sector bounced back strongly in November, posting a 23 per cent increase in new-business premiums compared to the same month last year, reaching Rs 31,119.6 crore, according to a recent report by CareEdge Ratings. This marked the third consecutive month of double-digit growth for the industry.

The rebound was driven by higher sales of individual non-single policies and solid performance across both individual and group segments. Experts said favorable base effects and smoother adjustments following the GST waiver on individual life policies helped maintain this momentum.

LIC continued to lead the market, showing strength in both individual and group segments, while private insurers maintained consistent double-digit growth. Individual non-single premiums showed notable gains, highlighting steady recurring inflows, and group business saw revival due to increased institutional activity.

Although group policy renewals eased slightly because of an exceptionally strong prior-year base, the overall industry trend remained positive. For year-to-date FY26, cumulative first-year premiums grew steadily, largely driven by private players, signaling a return to normal growth after temporary boosts from earlier regulatory changes.

Single-premium business saw a sharp recovery, rising 29.4 per cent year-on-year, after a 19.8 per cent decline the previous year. Non-single premiums grew 14.3 per cent, with private insurers strengthening in the individual non-single segment, while LIC retained its dominance in single-premium and group offerings. Individual life insurance premiums surged 26.4 per cent, rebounding sharply from just 7.7 per cent last year.

Sanjay Agarwal, Senior Director at CareEdge Ratings, noted that the surge in policy issuance reflected broad-based customer participation. He added that the industry has overcome previous distribution challenges following the change in surrender value norms introduced last year.

The report underscores a healthy recovery in India's life-insurance sector, with both public and private insurers benefiting from renewed demand.

## Foreign investors sell South Korean stocks sharply

**SEOUL**

Foreign investors logged their second-largest monthly sell-off of South Korean stocks in November, unloading a net $9.13 billion after buying $3.02 billion in October. It was the biggest outflow since April's $9.33 billion, triggered by a nearly 16% drop in the KOSPI following a strong rally fueled by chipmakers and other major firms. Concerns about a potential AI-driven bubble led investors to take profits even though the index has more than doubled this year.

In contrast, foreign investors poured a record $11.81 billion into Korean bonds. Currency volatility eased slightly, with daily won-dollar fluctuations averaging 5.3 won.

Stocks rebounded late Friday on upbeat Broadcom earnings, lifting the KOSPI to 4,156.81. Samsung Electronics and SK hynix gained, while Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance plunged 21.83% after an unexplained surge the previous day. The won strengthened to 1,472.2 per dollar.

SIMPLIFIED OIL RULES

# Petroleum rules 2025 amended to boost business

**NEW DELHI**

In a major move to simplify operations in the oil and gas sector, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025 have been amended to promote ease of doing business, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced.

The amended rules allow lessees to carry out all types of mineral oil operations under a single petroleum lease, including decarbonisation projects and comprehensive energy initiatives at oilfields. Applications for petroleum leases will now be decided within 180 days, and long-term leases of up to 30 years may be granted, with extensions allowed for the economic life of the field, enabling companies to plan investments effectively.

Under the new framework, lessees must submit annual declarations of installed, used, and excess infrastructure capacity. They may also jointly develop or share facilities by mutual agreement. Lease formats have been standardized for uniformity and easier administration, and rules now mandate reduction plans with time-bound targets to achieve zero gas flaring and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The rules also specify that the seat of arbitration for lease and contractual disputes involving only Indian companies will be New Delhi. If foreign companies are involved, a neutral arbitration seat may be chosen. National Oil Companies (NOCs) must notify discoveries promptly, submit field development plans within prescribed timeframes, obtain government approval for development areas, and report regularly on production activities.

Penalties for violations have been increased to Rs 25 lakh, with continuation of non-compliance attracting Rs 10 lakh per day, the Minister added.

Puri highlighted that the amendments aim to strengthen India's domestic exploration and hydrocarbon production infrastructure, supporting the government's mission to achieve energy security under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# NOISE POLLUTION IN INDIA: THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

In the bustling streets of Mumbai, a street vendor shouts to attract customers while auto-rickshaws honk incessantly behind him. Construction workers operate jackhammers nearby, and loudspeakers from a religious procession add to the cacophony. This scene, replicated across cities and towns throughout India, represents one of the country's most pervasive yet overlooked environmental challenges: noise pollution. While air and water pollution dominate environmental discourse, the invisible assault on our ears continues largely unabated, affecting millions of Indians daily and contributing to a public health crisis that demands urgent attention.

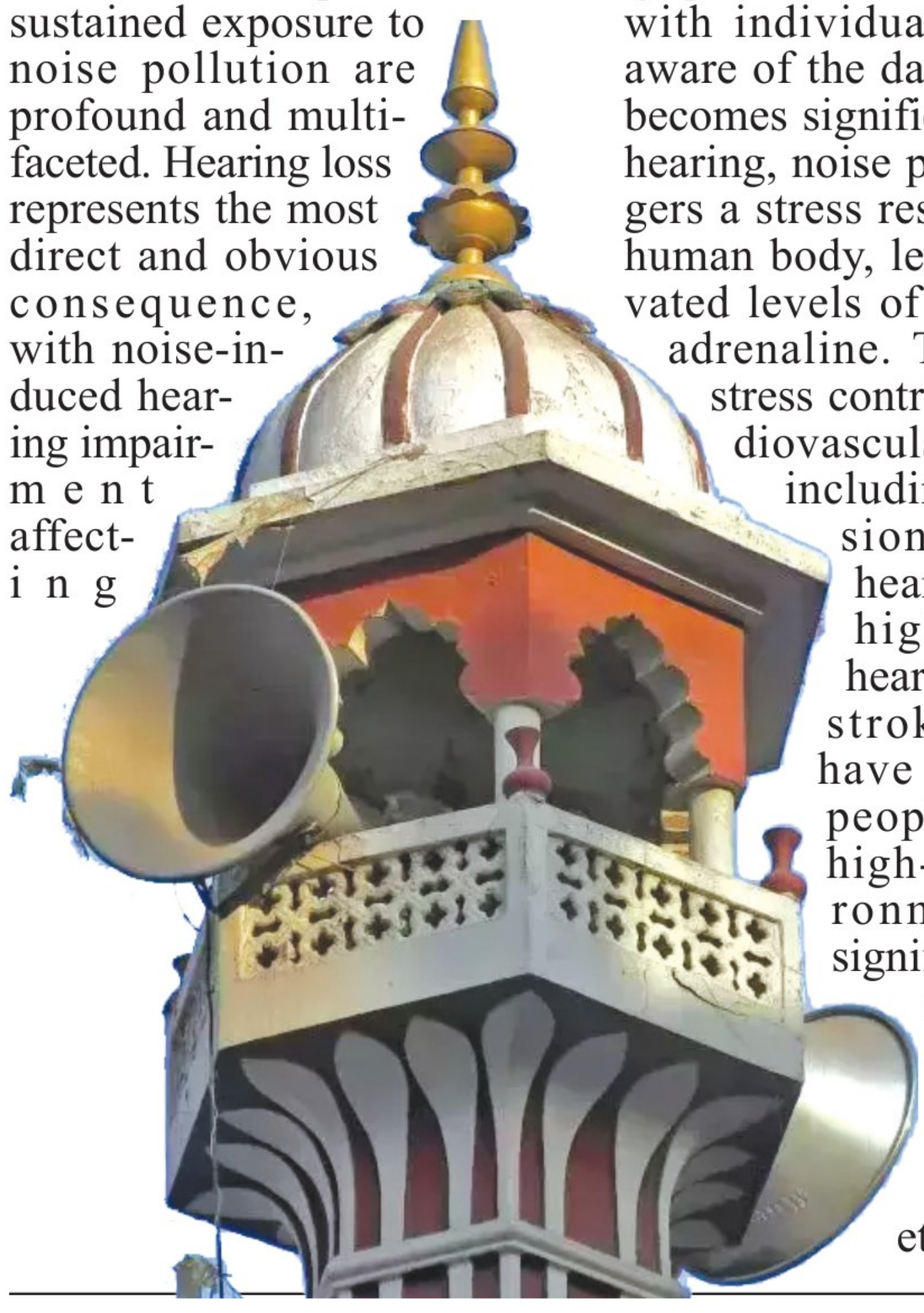
Noise pollution in India has reached alarming levels, with several Indian cities consistently ranking among the noisiest in the world. According to various studies and surveys, cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru regularly record noise levels that far exceed the permissible limits set by the Central Pollution Control Board. In residential areas, where the prescribed limit is 55 decibels during the day and 45 decibels at night, actual measurements often soar to 70-80 decibels or higher. Commercial areas fare even worse, with noise levels frequently crossing 85-90 decibels, equivalent to standing next to a busy highway or operating heavy machinery. These sustained high decibel levels represent not just a nuisance but a genuine threat to the health and well-being of India's urban population.

The sources of noise pollution in India are as diverse as they are numerous. Vehicular traffic stands as perhaps the most significant contributor, with the country's rapidly growing automobile population creating a constant symphony of engine roars, honking, and tire noise. The Indian propensity for honking, often unnecessary and excessive, has become a defining characteristic of the country's roads. Unlike in many Western nations where horn use is reserved for emergencies, in India, the horn serves as a primary communication tool between drivers, resulting in a relentless auditory assault. The problem is compounded by poorly maintained vehicles with defective silencers, diesel generators that run throughout power outages, and the proliferation of three-wheelers and two-wheelers that weave through traffic with high-pitched engine whines.

**Construction activities represent another major source of noise pollution, particularly as India undergoes massive infrastructure development and urban expansion. From metro projects to flyovers, residential complexes to commercial centers, construction sites operate around the clock in many cities, often flouting regulations regarding permissible working hours. The sound of drilling, hammering, concrete mixing, and heavy machinery creates sustained noise levels that can persist for months or years in the same locality. Residents living near construction sites frequently report sleep disturbances, stress, and an overall deterioration in their quality of life, yet enforcement of noise regulations in this sector remains weak and inconsistent. Religious and social celebrations, while culturally significant, contribute substantially to India's noise pollution problem. Festivals like Diwali, Dussehra, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Durga Puja involve the use of loudspeakers, firecrackers, and processions that generate extreme noise levels. Religious institutions, including temples, mosques, and gurudwaras, use public address systems at high volumes for prayers, hymns, and sermons, often starting in the early morning hours. Wedding celebrations and political rallies add to this soundscape, with elaborate sound systems that project music and speeches to entire neighborhoods. While the Supreme Court of India has issued guidelines restricting the use of loudspeakers and firecrackers, enforcement remains challenging due to the sensitivity of religious and cultural practices, and violations are commonplace.**

Industrial noise pollution affects not only workers within factories but also communities living in proximity to industrial areas. Manufacturing units, power plants, and processing facilities operate machinery that generates continuous high-decibel noise. In many Indian cities, residential areas have developed adjacent to or intermixed with industrial zones due to poor urban planning, exposing residents to constant industrial noise. Workers in these facilities face even greater risks, with prolonged exposure to machinery noise leading to occupational hearing loss and related health issues. Unfortunately, compliance with occupational safety standards regarding noise exposure remains low, particularly in the unorganized sector that employs a significant portion of India's workforce.

The health implications of sustained exposure to noise pollution are profound and multifaceted. Hearing loss represents the most direct and obvious consequence, with noise-induced hearing impairment affecting millions of Indians, particularly those in urban areas and specific occupations. This type of hearing loss is typically gradual and irreversible, with individuals often unaware of the damage until it becomes significant. Beyond hearing, noise pollution triggers a stress response in the human body, leading to elevated levels of cortisol and adrenaline. This chronic stress contributes to cardiovascular problems, including hypertension, increased heart rate, and a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. Studies have shown that people living in high-noise environments have significantly higher rates of these conditions compared to those in quieter areas.



Sleep disturbance caused by noise pollution creates a cascade of health problems. When environmental noise prevents people from achieving deep, restorative sleep, it affects cognitive function, mood, immune system response, and overall physical health. Sleep-deprived individuals experience reduced productivity, impaired decision-making, and increased irritability. In children, noise pollution has been linked to difficulties in learning, concentration problems, and developmental delays. Schools located near airports, railway lines, or busy roads show measurably poorer academic performance among students compared to schools in quieter locations. The psychological impact extends to increased anxiety, depression, and a general decline in mental well-being, with noise pollution contributing to what public health experts describe as an invisible epidemic affecting quality of life across Indian society.

India does have a regulatory framework to address noise pollution, primarily governed by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, enacted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules establish ambient air quality standards for noise in different zones, categorized as industrial, commercial, residential, and silence zones. The regulations also cover restrictions on loudspeaker use, firecrackers, and construction activities during nighttime hours. The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards are tasked with monitoring and enforcement, while police departments have the authority to take action against violations. On paper, the framework appears comprehensive and well-intentioned.

However, implementation remains the Achilles heel of noise pollution control in India. Enforcement agencies are often under-resourced, understaffed, and lack the necessary equipment to effectively monitor noise levels across vast urban areas. When violations are detected, penalties are often minimal and fail to serve as effective deterrents. Corrupt practices sometimes allow violators to continue their activities despite regulations. Public awareness about noise pollution as a serious environmental and health issue remains relatively low, with many people accepting high noise levels as an unavoidable aspect of urban life. This social acceptance of noise creates little pressure on authorities to enforce regulations strictly. Cultural factors, particularly regarding religious practices and celebrations, create additional complications for enforcement, with authorities reluctant to take action that might be perceived as insensitive or discriminatory.

Addressing noise pollution in India requires a multi-pronged approach involving technological solutions, stricter enforcement, urban planning reforms, and significant shifts in public awareness and behavior. From a technological standpoint, promoting electric vehicles and improving public transportation can reduce vehicular noise significantly. Electric vehicles operate much more quietly than their internal combustion counterparts, and expanding their adoption could transform the urban soundscape. Better urban planning that separates residential areas from industrial zones, creates buffer zones with vegetation, and designs buildings with soundproofing materials can mitigate noise exposure for residents. Green spaces and tree corridors serve as natural sound barriers while providing additional environmental benefits.

Stricter enforcement of existing regulations is essential, requiring increased resources for monitoring agencies, higher penalties for violations that serve as real deterrents, and greater use of technology such as noise monitoring sensors and automated enforcement systems. Public campaigns to raise awareness about the health impacts of noise pollution and promote behavioral changes, such as reducing unnecessary honking, can create social pressure for quieter practices. Educational programs in schools and communities can help build a culture that values acoustic environments and respects others' right to peaceful surroundings.

Noise pollution in India represents a complex challenge at the intersection of rapid urbanization, cultural practices, inadequate enforcement, and limited public awareness.

As Indian cities continue to grow and develop, the problem threatens to worsen unless concerted action is taken. The health and economic costs of noise pollution, though difficult to quantify precisely, are undoubtedly enormous, affecting productivity, healthcare expenses, and overall quality of life for hundreds of millions of people.

# Lionel Messi's GOAT Tour Set to Enthrall India Across Four Cities

Messi begins a special India tour blending sport, culture and fan experiences

**KOLKATA**

Lionel Messi's much-anticipated GOAT Tour of India kicks off today as the global football icon touches down in Kolkata for the start of a three-day, four-city whirlwind celebration. Messi's visit, his first to India since 2011, marks a rare opportunity for Indian fans to engage with the 2022 World Cup champion in a series of cultural showcases, football clinics and high-profile events.

Unlike a formal international match, the GOAT Tour is designed as a fan-engagement and cultural roadshow, celebrating Messi's global influence and India's deepening love for football. The initiative, conceptualised by promoter Satadru Dutta, spans Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi, with each city hosting a mix of clinics, exhibitions, celebrity interactions and charity events. Tickets for the tour have already sparked massive interest, though the premium meet-and-greet passes—priced at ₹10 lakh each—are reserved for die-hard supporters eager to click a photo with the Argentine legend. Messi will be accompanied at select events by close friends and teammates Luis Suárez and Rodrigo de Paul, adding further star power to the spectacle. The tour's Kolkata leg includes scheduled meetings with Sourav Ganguly and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, setting the tone for Messi's packed itinerary. He departs for Hyderabad in the afternoon, where one of the tour's biggest draws awaits—a 7v7 exhibition match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expected to participate. The evening will conclude with a musical tribute celebrating Messi's extraordinary career. In Mumbai, the spotlight shifts to charity, with a fashion show and an auction of memorabilia from Argentina's 2022 World Cup triumph. A major highlight across the tour is a series of youth-focused football clinics, especially for underprivileged children, reflecting Messi's role as a UNICEF ambassador.

# Vinesh Phogat Reverses Retirement, Targets Gold at LA 2028 Olympics

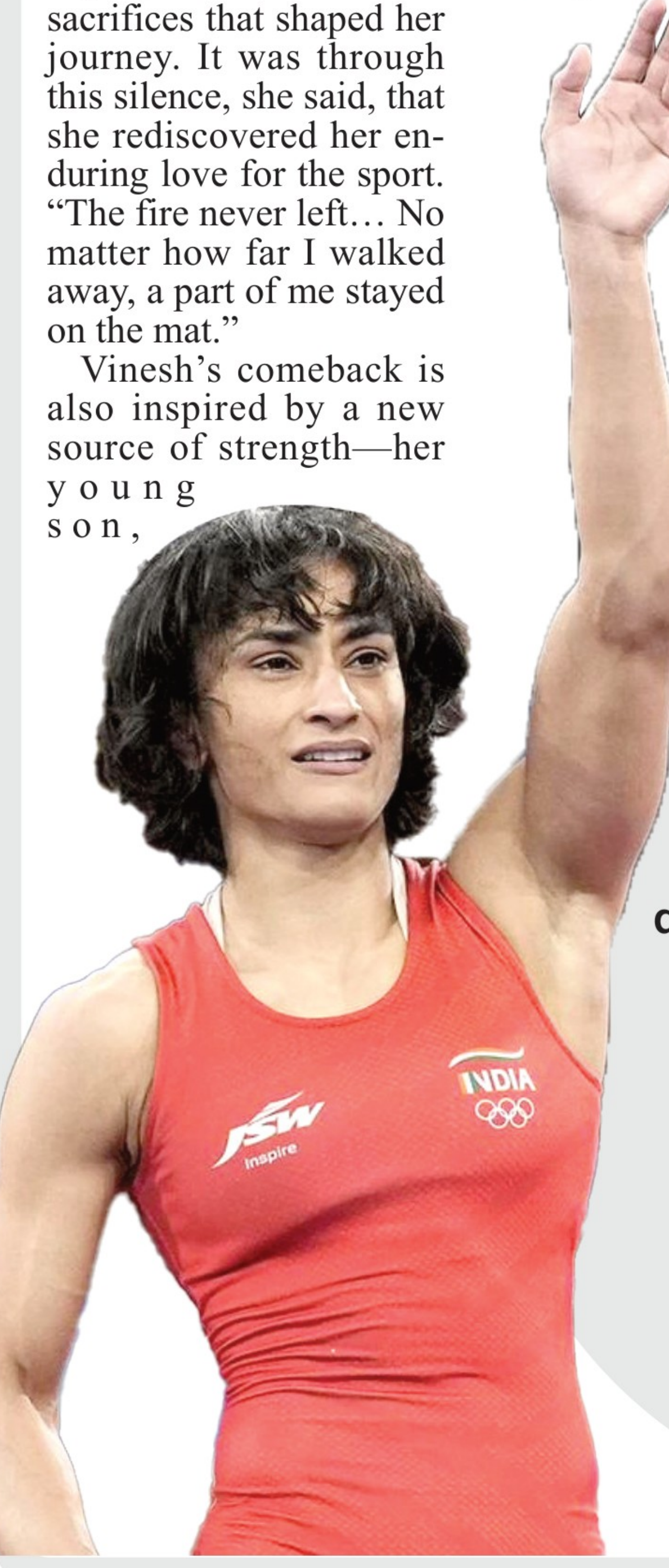
**NEW DELHI**

Indian wrestling icon Vinesh Phogat has officially reversed her retirement decision, announcing a determined return to the mat with her sights firmly set on winning a medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The 29-year-old, who had stepped away from the sport after her heartbreaking disqualification from the Paris Olympics gold medal bout, said she found clarity and renewed purpose during months of introspection.

In a heartfelt post on X, Vinesh revealed that she needed distance from wrestling to understand the emotional toll of years spent navigating pressure, expectations and personal ambition. "For the first time in years, I allowed myself to breathe," she wrote, reflecting on the highs, heartbreaks and sacrifices that shaped her journey. It was through this silence, she said, that she rediscovered her enduring love for the sport. "The fire never left… No matter how far I walked away, a part of me stayed on the mat."

Vinesh's comeback is also inspired by a new source of strength—her young son, whom she described as her "little cheerleader" on the road to LA 2028. With renewed discipline and a revitalized spirit, the champion wrestler vowed to return to competition with greater resilience than ever.

A trailblazer in Indian wrestling, Vinesh created history in Paris by becoming the first Indian woman to reach an Olympic gold medal bout, defeating Japan's four-time world champion Yui Susaki en route. But tragedy struck on the morning of the final when she exceeded the permissible weight by just 100 grams, leading to disqualification. Her results were annulled under UWW rules, and her appeal to retain at least the silver was dismissed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Following her return to India, Vinesh entered politics and won the Haryana assembly election from Julana. But now, with her competitive spirit reignited, she is ready to script a new chapter—one aimed at Olympic redemption.



Vinesh Phogat dramatically ends her retirement, reigniting her pursuit of Olympic wrestling glory

# ICC's High Media Valuation Worries Broadcasters amid RMG Ban

**CHENNAI**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) and its broadcast partner JioStar continue to navigate a turbulent phase as both sides attempt to recalibrate an inflated $3-billion media-rights deal covering ICC events through 2027. The merger between Jio and Star left JioStar holding the rights, but with two years still remaining, the broadcaster is reportedly seeking an exit as the financial model becomes increasingly unviable.The ICC has sounded out other major broadcasters—including Sony, Netflix and Amazon—about taking over the remainder of the deal, but industry executives say there is no appetite at the current valuation. Sony, in particular, is known for its conservative approach to sports rights; its previous ICC bid of $1.6 billion, almost half the winning amount, reflected that stance. Jio's own earlier bid of $900 million also underscored how steep Star's winning price always appeared. Beyond the inflated cost, the ban on real-money gaming (RMG) has severely hit the broadcaster's advertising potential. With ed-tech spending also shrinking, revenue streams have tightened, making the economics even more challenging. Insiders believe none of the major players—Sony, Netflix, or Amazon—will step in, at least not at the existing figures. Despite tensions, a former ICC official suggests that JioStar and ICC may ultimately need each other, predicting the broadcaster will retain the rights through 2027. Both parties are exploring creative solutions to mitigate losses, including hybrid arrangements similar to the recent India–England Test series where Sony handled TV distribution while Jio streamed matches digitally.

# Aston Villa Extends Winning Streak to Eight with 2-1 Europa League Victory

**BASEL**

Aston Villa continued its remarkable resurgence this season with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over FC Basel in the UEFA Europa League, extending their winning streak to eight games across all competitions and securing at least a playoff spot. With the win, Villa now sits tied with Lyon and Midtjylland atop the Europa League standings on 15 points from six games.

At St. Jakob-Park, summer signing Evann Guessand put Villa ahead early with a goal from a corner, but Basel's Flavius Daniliuc equalized off Xherdan Shaqiri's curling free kick. Villa's decisive goal came from Youri Tielemans, who, after coming on at halftime, scored within eight minutes with a 20-meter strike into the bottom corner. Villa manager Unai Emery, a four-time Europa League winner with Sevilla and Villarreal, praised the team's resilience after a challenging start to the season. Villa also recently climbed to third in the Premier League, including a notable 2-1 win over league leaders Arsenal.

Across the Europa League, Lyon and Midtjylland secured victories in their respective matches, while other results included Fenerbahce's 4-0 win at Brann, Real Betis' 3-1 victory over Dinamo Zagreb, and Nottingham Forest's 2-1 triumph at Utrecht, keeping their unbeaten streak intact under manager Sean Dyche. Meanwhile, Celtic suffered a 3-0 loss to Roma on coach Wilfried Nancy's European debut, and Nice lost 1-0 at home to Braga, remaining the only team without a point in the group stage. After eight group-stage games, the top eight teams advance directly to the round of 16, while teams ranked ninth to 24th move to the knockout playoffs in February. Villa's performance positions them strongly as they chase a deep Europa League run.

# IOC Confirms LA28 Olympic Hockey Qualification System

**NEW DELHI**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially approved the qualification system for the men's and women's hockey tournaments at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced.

As in previous editions since the 2008 Beijing Games, 12 teams per gender will compete at the Olympics, including host nation USA, with the remaining 11 spots determined through a combination of league performance, continental championships, and qualification tournaments. The FIH Pro League will play a crucial role, with the highest-ranked team in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons securing Olympic qualification. If the same nation tops both seasons, the runner-up of the 2026-27 season will earn a berth. This ensures consistent performance across multiple seasons is rewarded.

In addition, the five Continental Championships will guarantee qualification for the highest-placed team in each region that has not already qualified via the Pro League or as host.

# 21-Month-Old Veda Sarfare Sets Swimmer Record

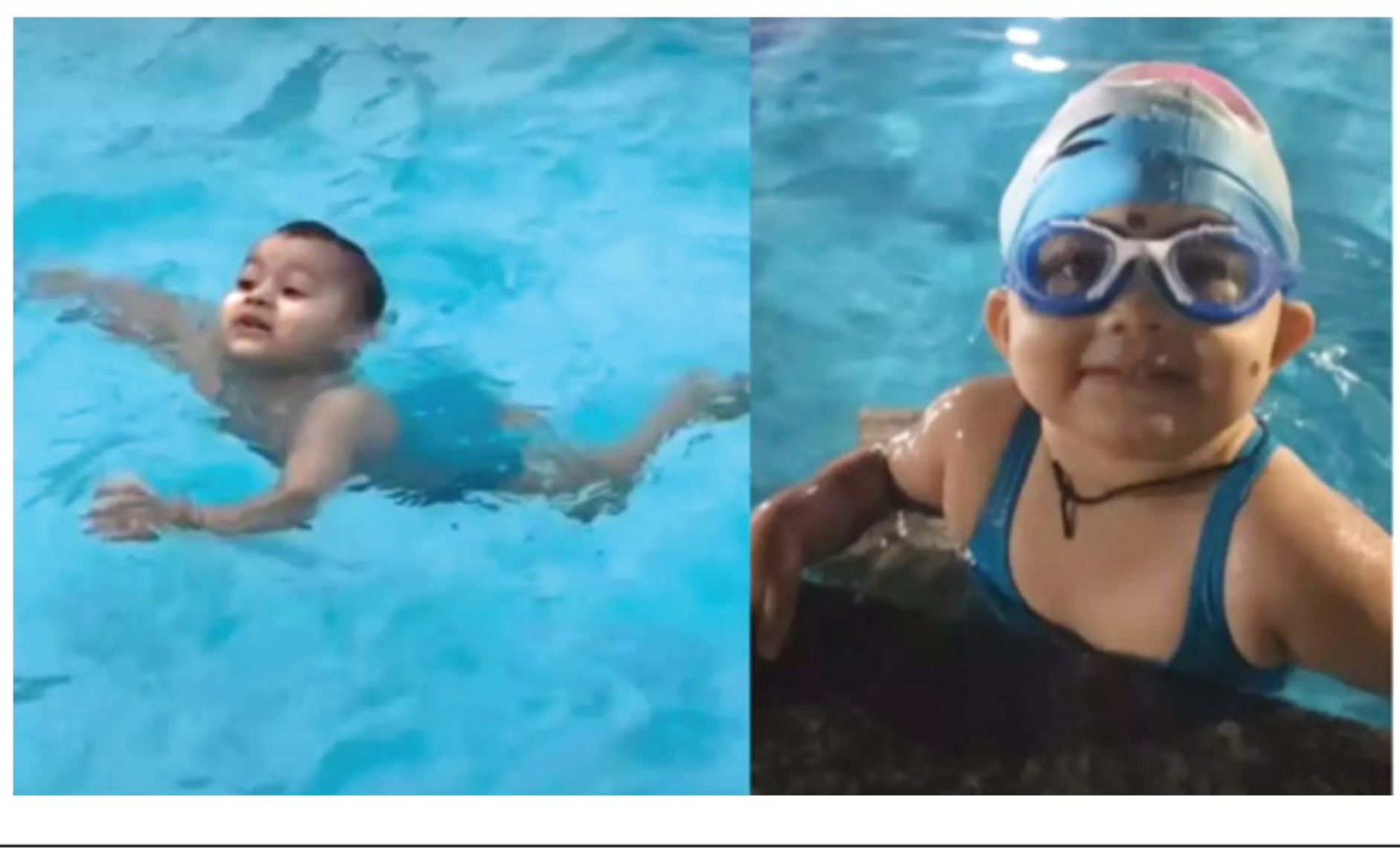
**RATNAGIRI**

Veda Sarfare, a 21-month-old toddler, has etched her name in the Indian Book of Records as the country's youngest swimmer. After nearly a year of playful training, she successfully swam 100 metres at the Ratnagiri Municipal Swimming Pool in 10 minutes and 8 seconds, delighting her family and record authorities.

Veda's parents emphasized that her journey in swimming was driven by enjoyment rather than expectations. "Our focus was always on making learning fun for her, not on results or records," they said. The toddler's early training consisted of gentle exercises and water play, helping her build comfort and confidence in the pool.

Her parents documented much of her progress on social media, sharing videos of Veda practicing swimming in a joyful and lighthearted manner. These posts showcased her enthusiasm and playful spirit, which they say were key to her early success. To officially secure the record, Veda's parents submitted an email to the Indian Book of Records detailing her age, birthdate, and the official recognition they had received from authorities. With this achievement, Veda Sarfare has become an inspiring example of how early exposure, encouragement, and enjoyment can help young children explore their interests and reach milestones at a remarkably young age.

Veda's achievement has been widely celebrated across Ratnagiri and beyond, with her parents hoping that her story inspires other families to encourage learning and physical activity through fun, safe, and supportive methods, rather than pressure or rigid goals. This record not only highlights her personal achievement but also showcases the potential of nurturing children's abilities from an early age.



# PT Usha Urges Govt to Promote Indigenous Anti-Doping Kits

**NEW DELHI**

Indian Olympic Association President and Rajya Sabha member P T Usha on Friday urged the central government to promote the manufacturing of indigenous anti-doping testing kits under the 'Make in India' initiative. Speaking in the Upper House, she highlighted that local production would reduce costs, accelerate testing, and enhance transparency, while strengthening India's credibility in international sports. Usha pointed out that currently, India relies heavily on imported kits from Swiss companies Berlinger and LockCon, resulting in delays and dependency on external agencies.

"The menace of doping threatens athlete health, fairplay, and India's global reputation. Indigenous production will make India a self-reliant, dope-free sporting nation," she said. India, which is eyeing to host the Olympics in 2036, has faced criticism over its doping record. The country often ranks among the top five in global doping violations, highlighting the urgent need for better detection infrastructure. Usha emphasized that local kit production would spur research, innovation, employment, and technology development, including portable testing equipment and sample collection devices. Her statement comes a week after Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya confirmed a significant increase in dope control testing, with 7,751 tests planned in 2025, compared to 5,794 in 2023. Usha stressed that along with technological upgrades, awareness campaigns for young athletes and strict monitoring at training centres are essential to deter violations and support clean athletes. She called for a national program to develop anti-doping kits, support for scientific institutions and startups, and strengthening of NADA and Regional Testing Laboratories. A ministry source noted that while indigenous production is promising, quality standards must be uncompromising, as anti-doping kits are highly sensitive and even minor defects can compromise results.

# Puja Tomar Hopes MMA's Asian Games Inclusion Sparks Govt Support

**NEW DELHI**

Puja Tomar, India's only Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) to secure a win in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), has welcomed the inclusion of MMA at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, expressing hope that the move will attract government support and recognition for the sport in India. The strawweight fighter said, "I was so happy and excited when I heard MMA would feature in the 2026 Asian Games, because now our sport will start gaining recognition in India." Tomar, a former national Wushu champion, is confident about India's potential on the global MMA stage. "If we get proper support, MMA can become one of the biggest sports in India, and we can be among the top five countries worldwide within the next decade," she added.On her professional front, Tomar's next UFC fight is expected to be announced soon, likely against an East Asian opponent. Currently training at Some Fight Club in Bali under Coach Mike, she emphasized her focus on grappling skills, learning from her second UFC defeat against Irish fighter Shauna Bannon, where she lost via an arm bar in the second round.

Highlighting infrastructure challenges in India, Tomar said, "It is sad that we do not have quality training facilities for professional MMA athletes. I hope corporates and the government join hands to develop an ecosystem so more Indians can compete at the UFC."

# SURYAVANSHI'S

## 171 and 14 Sixes Power Him to Two U-19 Asia Cup Records

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi shattered two major U-19 Asia Cup records effortlessly

**NEW DELHI**

Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a breathtaking display of power-hitting as the 14-year-old Indian opener hammered 171 off just 95 balls against the UAE in the U-19 Asia Cup on Friday. His innings, packed with clean hitting and remarkable composure, featured 14 towering sixes, the most ever struck in a single innings in the history of the tournament.

Suryavanshi began aggressively, racing to his fifty in only 30 balls and reaching his century in 56. Once set, he unleashed an even more dominant assault on the UAE attack, storming past 150 in 84 deliveries before finally falling for 171. His knock not only powered India to a commanding total but also redefined the record books.

The teenager surpassed Afghanistan's Darwish Rasooli, who had struck 10 sixes in an U-19 Asia Cup match in 2017, to claim the record for most sixes in an innings. He also overtook Rasooli's aggregate of 22 sixes to script a new mark for the most sixes overall in the tournament, with his tally now standing at 26. This blistering 171 is the second-highest score by an Indian in U-19 ODIs, behind Ambati Rayudu's unbeaten 177 against England in 2002. Under the leadership of Mumbai and CSK opener Mhatre, India began their campaign in dominant fashion, though all eyes now shift to their high-voltage clash against Pakistan on Sunday—a contest widely viewed as a key preview ahead of next year's U-19 World Cup.

Suryavanshi's heroics have already ignited India's campaign, marking him as one of the most exciting young talents to watch in world cricket.

# Ten Doeschate urges Gill to replicate his IPL form

**Ten Doeschate said Gill's England captaincy mindset may be affecting his T20 fluency and urged him to "free up" like in the IPL, adding that the management fully backs both Gill and Suryakumar Yadav**

**MULLANPUR**

Shubman Gill has been "a bit too tight" since returning to T20Is, focusing too much on justifying his place rather than expressing himself freely, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said after the team's 51-run loss to South Africa in the second T20I on Thursday. Gill, who rejoined the format during the Asia Cup following standout Test performances in England, has replaced Sanju Samson at the top but has struggled to produce impactful scores ahead of the home T20 World Cup.

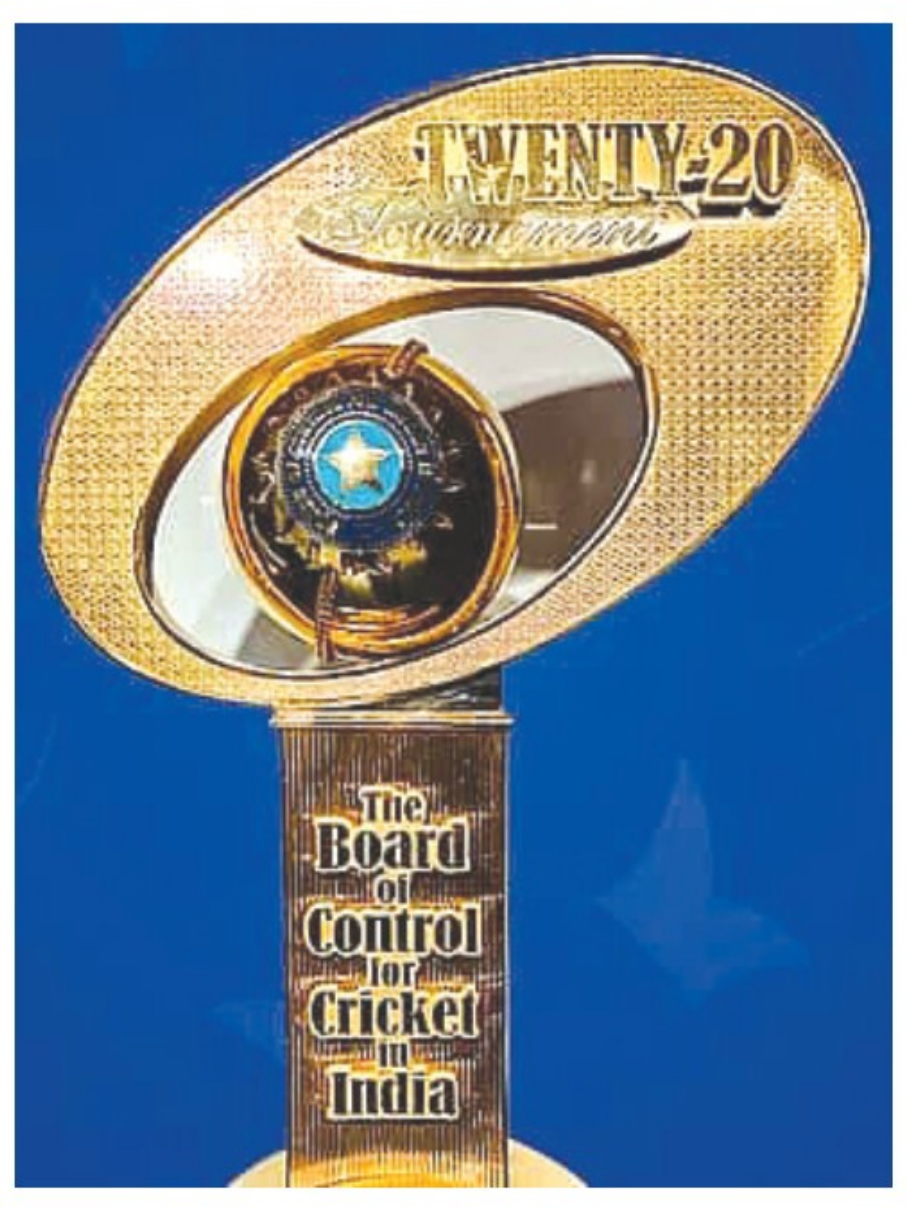
Ten Doeschate suggested that Gill's sense of responsibility from captaining India in England may have carried into his T20 approach, making him play within himself. The team management, he said, wants Gill to "free up" and bat with the same fluency he shows during the IPL.

He added that the support staff firmly backs both Gill and captain Suryakumar Yadav despite the latter's extended lean patch.

The former Netherlands all-rounder said Suryakumar still has the team's full confidence and emphasized that two low scores are no reason for concern. He felt the right-hander had shown promising signs during the recent Australia tour and would regain form soon.

Reflecting on India's bowling performance, ten Doeschate admitted the attack had "a poor night," with Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah conceding heavily in favourable batting conditions. Arshdeep's seven wides in the 11th over and deviation from planned strategies contributed significantly to South Africa's total of 213.

He also explained the decision to promote Axar Patel up the order, saying the team is experimenting with combinations as it has often found itself 35 for three in recent months. With limited games left before the World Cup, India is exploring ways to strengthen the batting bridge between the top order and the middle-order hitters.



# SMAT Super League Begins as Eight Teams Chase Dec 18 Finale

**BENGALURU**

With the league stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) wrapping up earlier this week across four venues, India's premier domestic T20 competition now enters its high-stakes Super League phase. The final, scheduled for December 18 at the MCA Stadium in Pune, will be preceded by 13 matches involving the top eight teams as they vie for a spot in the title clash.

This year, SMAT has moved away from the traditional knockout format following the group stage. Instead, the tournament will feature two groups of four, with teams playing each other once. The winners of Group 1 and Group 2 will compete for the championship in Pune.

Group 1 comprises Mumbai, Hyderabad, Haryana and Rajasthan, while Group 2 includes Punjab, Jharkhand, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh. For many players, the Super League carries added weight with the IPL mini-auction just days away, offering a final opportunity to impress scouts.

Mumbai veteran Ajinkya Rahane, enjoying a productive run with 289 runs including two half-centuries, will hope to cap what may be the twilight phase of his career on a high note. Ishan Kishan, quietly accumulating 271 runs from six outings, remains pivotal to Jharkhand's chances. Meanwhile, Venkatesh Iyer, released by Kolkata Knight Riders, faces pressure to rediscover form after a string of low scores.

In a late development, the BCCI shifted the Super League phase from Indore to Pune, following a request from the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association citing logistical concerns. Matches will be split between the Gahunje Stadium and the MCA Stadium, both set to host all 13 fixtures, including the final.

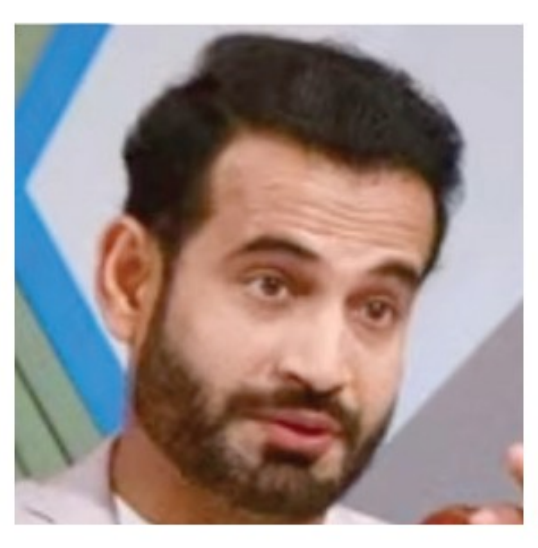
As the competition intensifies, teams now have a short, decisive window to secure their place in the December 18 finale.

*Pathan said Hardik excelled but struggled once slower, low-bounce pitches required footwork*

# Pathan slams Pandya's slow knock, flags worrying form of Gill and Surya

**MULLANPUR**

India's 51-run defeat to South Africa in the second T20I has sparked sharp criticism from former all-rounder Irfan Pathan, who questioned Hardik Pandya's approach and expressed concern over the form of Shubman Gill and captain Suryakumar Yadav ahead of the T20 World Cup.



Chasing 214, India needed an aggressive middle-overs push, but Pandya managed only 20 off 23 balls, striking a lone six. The sluggish knock came in stark contrast to his explosive half-century at over 200 strike rate in the first game. Pathan said the all-rounder looked comfortable on a batting-friendly surface earlier in the series but struggled on a pitch that required footwork and adaptability.

"Just a day ago, Hardik looked solid, but on a surface offering something to the bowlers, his stand-and-deliver method didn't click," Pathan wrote on X, noting that Pandya appeared stuck when the ball lacked pace and bounce.

India's top order also faltered, with vice-captain Shubman Gill falling for a first-ball duck after scoring only four in the opening match. Pathan called Gill's T20I form a "big worry" with the World Cup just two months away.

He also highlighted Suryakumar Yadav's extended slump. The skipper has averaged around 15 in 2025 without a single half-century, raising concerns about India's middle-order stability.

Pathan didn't spare the bowlers either, pointing to India's lack of control. The attack delivered 13 full tosses and conceded 23 extras, allowing South Africa to post a daunting 213.

"How do you negate that? These are the questions India needs to answer going forward," Pathan added, urging the team to find solutions quickly as preparations intensify for the World Cup.

# 2026 T20 World Cup Ticket Sales Begin with Prices Starting at ₹100

**MUMBAI**

Ticket sales for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup officially opened, with Phase 1 offering entry prices as low as ₹100 in India and LKR 1,000 in Sri Lanka, marking one of the most affordable major ICC events to date. The tournament, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8, will feature 20 teams competing across eight venues.

In India, matches will be staged in Ahmedabad, Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, while Sri Lanka will host games at two venues in Colombo and in Kandy. The ICC confirmed that defending champions India will face the USA on the opening day, one of three fixtures that will launch the 10th edition of the global T20 showpiece.

#T20WORLDCUP

ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said that affordability and access were at the heart of the ticketing strategy. "Our aim is to deliver the most accessible and global ICC event ever. Every fan, regardless of geography or financial background, should have the chance to experience world-class cricket from the stands," he said. Gupta added that low starting prices are meant to "open the gates wide" and ensure fans can actively participate in the excitement of stadium cricket.

The tournament will feature 55 matches, making it the most expansive T20 World Cup in history.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said the pricing structure would help create "stadiums buzzing with energy," while Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley de Silva urged fans to book early to avoid missing out on key matches.

The ICC has made tickets available through its official platform, with further phases of sales to be announced in due course.

# Jacob Duffy's 5-for powers New Zealand to crushing win, 1-0 Test lead

**WELLINGTON**

PHILLIPS
23
JAMSON
2
MITCHEL
75
BRACEWELL
4

Jacob Duffy produced a superb spell of seam bowling, taking 5-38 as New Zealand overwhelmed the West Indies by nine wickets on day three of the second Test at the Basin Reserve, securing a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The hosts dismissed the visitors for just 128 after lunch, needing only 56 runs to complete an emphatic victory, which they achieved before tea through Devon Conway (28) and Kane Williamson (16).

Duffy, playing just his third Test, claimed his second five-wicket haul, while debutant Michael Rae impressed with figures of 3-45. Kavem Hodge, who top-scored with 35, was the lone West Indian batter to resist as wickets tumbled around him. New Zealand's inexperienced attack — with Zak Foulkes in his third Test, Blair Tickner in his fourth, and Rae on debut — earned praise from skipper Tom Latham, who lauded the resilience shown despite injury setbacks.

Duffy's five-wicket haul seals dominant New Zealand win and valuable series advantage

The West Indies resumed at 32-2, trailing by 41, but their innings unravelled quickly. By lunch, they had slumped to 98-6, unable to reproduce the fightback that salvaged the first Test in Christchurch. A collapse after the break sealed their fate, beginning with Justin Greaves' lbw dismissal to Duffy following a successful review. The innings ended in just 9.2 overs.

West Indies captain Roston Chase expressed disappointment at the batting effort, saying his team squandered promising starts and failed to show the determination needed to build big scores. Earlier, the visitors were bowled out for 205 in the first innings, before New Zealand replied with 278-9 declared.

Friday's slide began with Brandon King's run-out for 22 after a mix-up, followed by dismissals of Shai Hope and Chase. Hodge's departure, caught brilliantly by Will Young at midwicket, ended any hope of resistance.

The teams now head to Mount Maunganui for the decisive third Test starting Thursday.

# Squash WC: Bonded by blood and sport — the inspiring Azman sisters

**CHENNAI**

**Results**

Express Avenue Mall: Hong Kong China 2-2 South Africa; India 4-0 Brazil

ISA: Malaysia 3-1 Australia; Japan 1-3 Egypt

When Aira Azman stepped onto the centre court of the Indian Squash Academy to face Australia's Jessica Turnbull, her sister Aifa was her loudest supporter in an otherwise silent arena. Fifty-one minutes later, the roles reversed as Aira took her place courtside, cheering Aifa through a commanding win over Madison Lyon. Their victories secured Malaysia a 3-1 triumph over Australia and a spot in the Squash World Cup quarterfinals.

Though their wins in Chennai came with relative ease, the sisters admit the emotions differ when they are on tour playing higher-ranked opponents. Aira says she feels calm because she trusts Aifa's game entirely, while Aifa, with a laugh, confesses she gets nervous watching her younger sibling, hiding her stress much like their mother used to do.

Aira, 21, and Aifa, 23, are both ranked inside the world's top 50, their aggressive, fast-paced style often overwhelming opponents. Aifa, ranked 33, wrapped up her match in just 10 minutes, while World No. 24 Aira needed 15 minutes to subdue Turnbull.

Their journey into the sport began with their elder sister, Aika, who took up squash under Malaysia's "one student, one sport" policy. At ages two and five, Aira and Aifa followed her to the courts, eventually rising through the junior circuit.

The trio grew especially close when Aika moved to the Bukit Jalil Sports School in Kuala Lumpur. Now married and coaching, Aika continues to offer tactical advice and emotional support to her younger sisters.

Life on tour means missing festivals and family time, but Aifa says having Aira beside her makes the sacrifices easier. Malaysia next face Japan in Friday's quarterfinals.

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